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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT 70 STATION ROAD, WEST DRAYTON

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SUMMARY

Between January and May 2013 archaeological investigations were undertaken at 70 Station Road, West Drayton in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The work demonstrated the presence of extensive archaeological deposits across the site, of later prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date. Although there was probably a transient presence here as early as the Mesolithic, the earliest definable activity appears to have dated to the Later Neolithic and was represented by two parallel, linear ditches that ran across the western part of the property. This was followed during the Middle Bronze Age by the construction of an oval, segmented enclosure. A subsequent phase of activity during the Late Bronze Age saw the creation of a large, rectangular double-ditched enclosure, with several associated features suggesting occupation. Later prehistoric activity, probably dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, was also detected. There was nothing further of significance on site until about the time of the Norman Conquest, when linear ditches were excavated and several timber structures, possibly houses, were built. In the middle of the 13th century its purpose appears to have shifted from domestic to agricultural and it is possible that a farmstead was established here. Occupation continued into the post-medieval period, with the archaeological evidence demonstrating activity up until the early 20th century. Maps show that by 1828 the site was occupied by a farmyard which was latterly attached to Rooks Farm.

INTRODUCTION

Between January and May 2013 archaeological investigations were carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at 70 Station Road, West Drayton, in advance of residential development, with the work being funded by Pwin Developments.

The site is located on the south side of Station Road, a little less than 300m south of West Drayton railway station and north of the historic core of West Drayton village (Fig 1). It is bounded to the west by Classon Close, to the north by Station Road, to the east by Drayton Gardens and to the south by residential properties fronting on to Drayton Gardens. The central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference is TQ 06146 79797.

Initial work in January 2013 comprised an archaeological watching brief during removal of the existing foundations. This was followed by an archaeological evaluation completed over January and February 2013 (Boyer 2013). The watching brief showed that the foundations of previous buildings had truncated earlier deposits, whilst excavations for underground fuel tanks had resulted in extensive destruction of the archaeology along the northern edge of the site. However, the evaluation by trial trenching showed that archaeological remains, mostly of medieval to post-medieval date, survived in some areas, particularly towards the south-

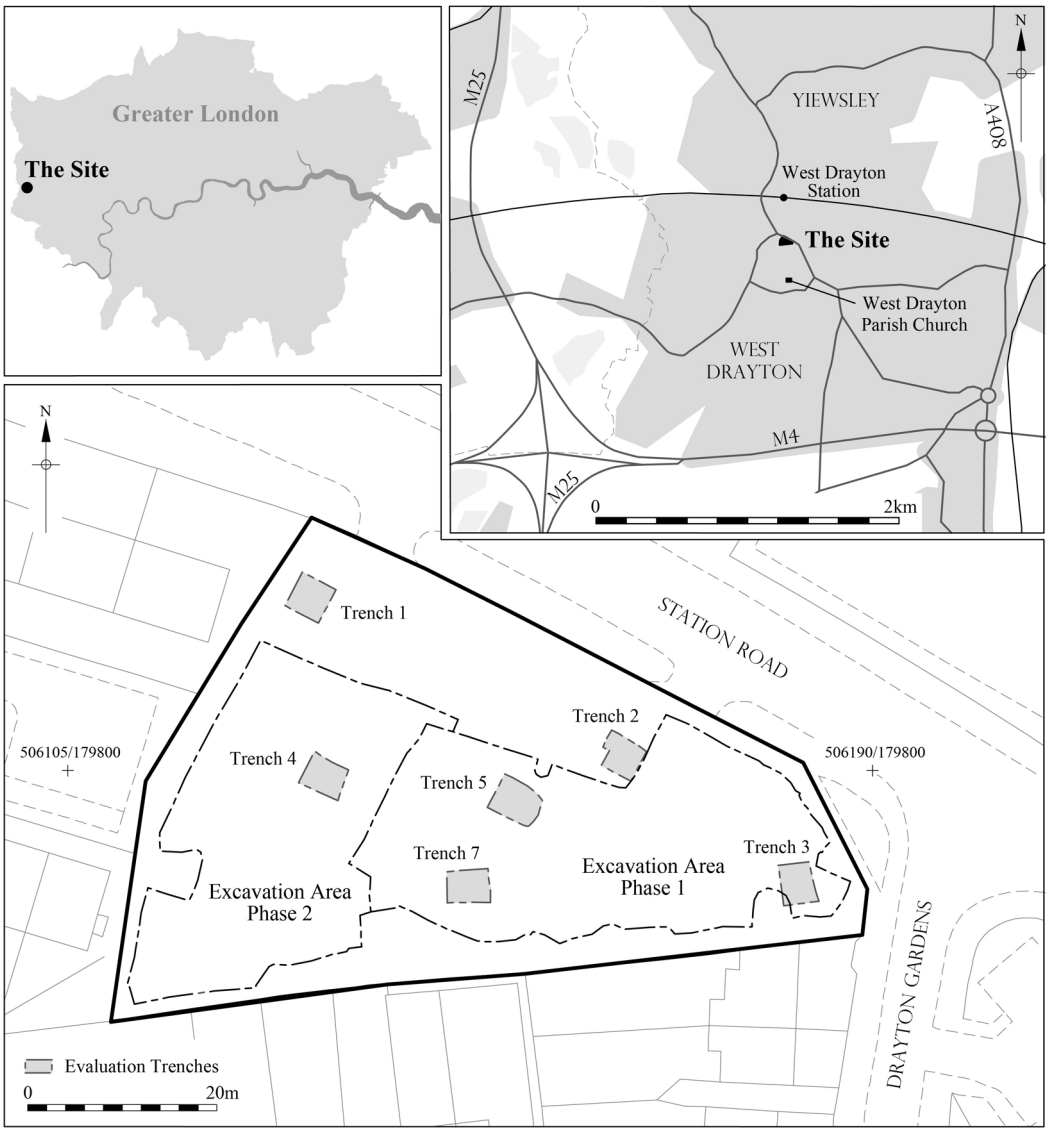

Fig 1. Site location plans showing evaluation trenches and excavation area (© Crown copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Licence number PMP36110309) (scale 1:50,000, lower 1:800)

eastern and central portions of the site (Trenches 3, 5 and 7, Fig 1). Because of the findings of the evaluation it was decided that a large part of the site should be subject to further investigation using a strip, map and sample (SMS) methodology. Initially an area covering the eastern *c.*60% of the site, south of the deep truncation was investigated. However, it became clear that archaeological features continued beyond the western edge of this area. Therefore, following completion of investigations here, the western part of the site was examined (Fig 1).

Within the text, numbers in square brackets ([1] *etc*) refer to contexts, and numbers in angled brackets (<1> *etc*) refer to samples.

BACKGROUND

Geology and Topography

The underlying solid geology of the area consists of Eocene London Clay. The British Geological Survey (1993) Sheet 256 (North London) shows this to be overlain by a Pleistocene drift geology comprising Lynch Hill Terrace Gravels, which are capped by clay and silt brickearth of the Langley Silt Member (Gibbard 1985). Natural brickearth was recorded across the site. Its maximum height varied between 28.87m OD at the eastern edge and 28.20m OD towards the west. Although there may have been a slight natural slope along the top of the deposit, the differential elevations recorded during the course of the investigations are just as likely to have been a result of variable levels of truncation across the site. The brickearth was not fully penetrated by any of the features excavated during the evaluation or SMS phases, though watching brief observations during the removal of the fuel tanks revealed that along the northern edge of the property it was at least 1.8m thick.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistory to Early Medieval

The West London/Middlesex Terrace Gravels have been an important source of Palaeolithic artefacts in the past, with material being identified during gravel extraction in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Lynch Hill and later Taplow Terrace Gravels of the Yiewsley and West Drayton area have been a particularly rich source for implements of the Middle Palaeolithic Levalloisian flint industry (Wymer 1968, 255–9; 1991, 11–12; Collins 1978). Boyer's Pit, Clayton's Little Wonder Pit and Eastwood's Pit at Yiewsley, for example, less than 1km north-east of the site have all produced important assemblages of handaxes.

Evidence for Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity is largely absent from the vicinity, but nationally important occupation sites of these periods are known from Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge (Middlesex), little more than 5km to the north-west (Lewis 2011). The Neolithic period is a little better represented in the surrounding area. A Neolithic pit containing worked flints and pottery was found in excavations at the former Gatehouse Nurseries at Beaudesert Mews to the south of the site (Cotton 1981), whilst a redeposited Palaeolithic flint scraper and Neolithic polished axe were found in a garden at 57 Money Lane, to the south-west (Cotton & Merriman 1991, 36, 41).

Although extensive evidence of Bronze Age occupation has been discovered around West Drayton, Bronze Age activity has only been detected at a few locations in the environs of the site. An Early Bronze Age flanged axe was found at Warwick Road, a short distance to the north, and is listed in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER ref: 050196/00/00). Archaeological investigations at the former Townmead School on Wise Road, less than a kilometre south-west, exposed a number of features including a hearth which was archaeomagnetically dated to the later 6th century BC (Masefield 1998; 1999).

Evidence of activity in the Roman period is mostly limited to residual finds, though a Roman ditch was identified in the Townmead School investigations (Masefield 1998). A watching brief at St Martin's Vicarage, at 191 Station Road, a little to the south-east, recovered a small assemblage of Roman pottery, though no features of any date were recorded (Hunn 2001), and the investigations at Beaudesert Mews also recovered residual Roman ceramics (Cotton 1981), as did those at St Martin's Hall (Bennell 1995; Masefield 1996).

The earliest documentary reference to the manor of West Drayton appears in a medieval transcription of a grant by Athelstan, king of the West Saxons (AD 925–39), to St Paul's Cathedral, London (Rose 1962, 191; Sawyer 1968, no. 453). West Drayton was one of nine manors that the cathedral claimed to have been bestowed by the king (Hale 1858, iii). Although this document is generally considered to be spurious, the manor does seem to have been in the possession of St Paul's by *c.*1000, when it appears on a list of manors owned by the Church which supplied 'shipmen' for a muster drawn from its estates in Essex, Middlesex and Surrey (Rose 1962, 191).

The modern place-name is believed to be derived from the Old English '*Drægtun*',

which has variously been interpreted as meaning a 'dragging' or portage point on the river Colne, 'a farmstead at or near a portage' or 'a farmstead where drays or sledges are used' (Rose 1962, 188; Mills 1998). Despite documentary evidence for the existence of a settlement by the 10th century, only a handful of archaeological traces of Saxon activity have been discovered near modern Drayton. These include residual sherds of Saxon pottery recorded during investigations in the Beaudesert Mews area, whilst investigations at Colham Mill Road, to the north-west, revealed features including wattle-lined pits and a possible fence line below a build-up of organic deposits. Two radiocarbon dates obtained from the organic deposits produced calibrated age ranges of AD 680–970 and AD 880–1160; these deposits contained 10th- to 11th-century pottery (Knight 1998, 101).

Medieval

At the eve of the Norman Conquest the manor of West Drayton (*Draitone*) remained in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, part of a substantial estate which also included manors in Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey (Faith 1994, 658). These estates formed the *communa* of St Paul's, the revenue and produce of which were farmed for the benefit of the cathedral community (Hale 1858, v, xxxviii). By the 12th century the major manors of the *communa* of St Paul's were leased in their entirety for a farm, or fixed payment to a lessee known as a *firmarius*. The latter tended to be men of some substance; the earliest known farmer of West Drayton was William of Northolt, Archdeacon of Gloucester, who held the lease jointly with Roberto Simplice (Robert the Simple) in 1181 (*ibid*, 112). William and his successors, Roger of Worcester (1222) and Stephen Seagrave (1320), were all canons of the cathedral, and the manor was farmed or managed by members of the chapter throughout the 14th, 15th and early 16th centuries (Rose 1962, 191). The farmers of the manor were non-resident and there is little or no evidence for the existence of a manor house in West Drayton during the centuries that the holdings remained in the possession of St Paul's. In 1297 the cathedral chapter owned a house and grounds in the manor, and it is possible that reference to this property or a successor was made in a letter of 1538 (*ibid*, 193). The location of this estate is uncertain. A smaller property known as the manor of Drayton Colham Garden, which emerged in the 15th century, comprised land in Drayton, Hillingdon and Stanwell (*ibid*, 192). Historical maps and documents indicate that the site of the present investigations lay wholly within the older manor of West Drayton (WDDLHS 1984).

In 1086 the manor of West Drayton contained ten hides of cultivable land, five of which comprised the manorial demesne (Williams & Martin 2002, 360). The manor contained sufficient arable land to support six plough teams, plus a mill and a fish weir (Faith 1994, 664). Manorial surveys of the 16th century indicate that West Drayton comprised three distinct north–south aligned zones, a pattern that is likely to have emerged by the 13th century or earlier (Rose 1962, 189). The arable land lay in open fields to the east of the village, which occupied the central zone. The latter area also contained the church, the principal residences, and the common meadow, which lay to the south of the village. The westernmost zone contained the common moorland, which lay along each side of the river Colne.

In 1086, there were 17 households the heads of which comprised eight villeins, seven bordars (smallholders) and two cottagers residing within the manor of West Drayton (Williams & Martin 2002, 360). By 1222, 40 tenants of the manor were recorded. Over the next seven decades the population rose sharply, reaching five freeholders and 62 other tenants by 1297 (Rose 1962, 188).

It is likely that the parish church of West Drayton was a 12th-century development (Fig 1), the earliest reference to the '*ecclesia de Draitona*' appearing in a survey of 1181 (Hale 1858, 151). It appears that the parish of West Drayton was coterminous with the manor of the same name from the outset. Dedicated to St Martin, the parish church contains two elements (part of the base of the tower and the chancel *piscina*) which are believed to date to the 13th century (*ibid*, 203; Cox 1952, 3). The church was extensively rebuilt during the 15th century (WDDLHS 1986).

Archaeological evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity has been uncovered during a number of formal archaeological investigations, supplemented by a handful of chance finds. The most extensive excavations in the area were those at Beaudesert Mews during 1979 and 1980, where a range of features suggested that this site was located within a medieval manorial complex (Cotton 1981). Medieval material was also recovered during the investigations at St Martin's Hall (Bennell 1995; Masefield 1996), whilst medieval pottery was discovered in an evaluation at Warwick Road/Furzenham Road (Ford 1995). A lead steelyard was found to the south of the excavated area at Station Road (GLHER ref: 050839/00/00).

Post-Medieval

The earliest lay tenant of the manor of West Drayton was a certain William Hyall/Hill, a local man who in 1525 leased the farm for 30 years (Rose 1962, 191). In contrast to his ecclesiastical predecessors, Hill did not possess certain manorial privileges such as the right of advowson, which were reserved by the chapter of St Paul's (*ibid*). Twelve years later the manor was in the possession of Robert Hyall/Hill (presumably William's son), when it was assigned to William Paget, secretary to Jane Seymour (*ibid*; WDDLHS 1986). Through Paget's efforts the manor and all its appurtenances were transferred to Henry VIII in 1546. In return, the Crown granted the manor to Paget in fee, ending the involvement of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral after five and a half centuries.

Within three years of gaining possession of the manor of West Drayton, Paget had built a manor house for himself at a location between the church and the village. The new house was a substantial red brick building, which stood in five acres (*c.*2ha) of grounds enclosed by a brick wall. In addition to stables, a dovecote and other outbuildings, the grounds also contained St Martin's church, churchyard and the former graveyard (Rose 1962, 192). William Paget was created Baron Paget of Beaudesant in 1550, and the manor and the house remained in his family's possession until the mid-1780s, except for a brief period at the end of the 16th century.

Archaeological evidence which was attributed to Paget's house and manorial complex was recorded during the excavations at Beaudesert Mews (Cotton 1981). In addition to elements of the house itself, the brick foundations of a Tudor building were also exposed at 28 Church Road (Richardson 1982, 164), thought to have similarly been part of Paget's manor house, whilst elements of a 15th- to 16th-century stable block have been identified in the rear garden of 30 Church Road (Richardson 1985, 52). The wall of a brew yard dating to approximately 1550 was recorded during a watching brief at St Martin's Church (Partridge 1996).

In 1664 the manor house was in the occupation of William, Lord Paget, when it was assessed for 47 hearths for the hearth tax. The house itself was demolished at some point before 1774, although the manor and estate remained in the possession of the Paget family until 1786, when Henry Paget, first Earl of Uxbridge, sold them to a London merchant called Fysh de Burgh (Rose 1962, 193). The same year de Burgh purchased an 18th-century house in Church Road called Drayton Hall, which subsequently became the manor house. This manor remained in the possession of de Burgh's widow after his death, following which it descended to her grandson Hubert de Burgh in 1823.

Archaeological investigations in the area have exposed evidence of activity relating to the 18th and 19th centuries. A watching brief at 42 Church Road revealed an 18th-century wall and post-medieval deposits (Knight 2002); an evaluation at Porters Way to the east of the site uncovered a number of post-medieval features (Hoad 1993a); whilst 19th- and 20th-century elements were recorded at 54–60 Money Lane to the west (Hoad 1993b).

In 1549 William Paget enclosed the 150 acres (60.7ha) of manorial demesne land in seven closes in the open fields of West Drayton (Rose 1962, 196). Within a decade all this land had been converted to cattle pasture, although a portion of it was subsequently returned to cultivation. The open fields farmed by the tenants of the manor remained predominantly arable. In 1824 Royal Assent was granted to 'An Act for Inclosing and Exonerating from Tithes, lands within the Parish of West Drayton, in

the County of Middlesex' (WDDLHS 1984, np). The open field, Townham Mead and the moors by the Colne were enclosed by an award of 1828, thereby completing the enclosure of the parish (Rose 1962, 196–200). The enclosure map and schedule that accompanied the award revealed that the site of the present archaeological investigations at this time was occupied by a farm house, a few cottages, two barns, a stable yard and gardens, all of which were in the possession of Hubert de Burgh, lord of the manor (WDDLHS 1984).

In 1826 West Drayton was described as a 'lightly populated agricultural parish' (Rose 1962, 189). However, the construction of the Grand Union Canal that cut through the extreme northern portion of the parish in 1798 and the opening of West Drayton railway station in 1838 encouraged the development of horticulture and brick making. As a result of this economic activity the number of inhabited houses in the parish doubled between 1801 and 1881. The local brick industry was relatively short-lived and the last brick fields closed in the mid-1930s. As late as 1947, 105 acres (42.5ha) of the parish were still market gardens (*ibid*, 190).

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 indicates that the farm that occupied the site was known at that time as Rooks Farm. The land to the south, where William Paget's manor house had once stood, was still covered with orchards. In 1861 Rooks was tenanted by an agricultural labourer named Shadrach Druce and his family.[1] A native of Bolter End in Buckinghamshire, Druce died later that year at the age of 50.[2] The farm itself continued in the possession of the de Burgh family for the remainder of the 19th and into the early 20th century.

During the 1860s the property passed into the occupation of Mrs Catherine Jewett/Jewitt, a Dublin-born widow who was described in a census return of 1871 as a 'Dairy Keeper'.[3] Mrs Jewitt lived at Rooks Farm with her four daughters and a domestic servant, while a gamekeeper named George Colley and his wife Eliza occupied Rooks Cottage situated on the estate. Catherine Jewitt was still living at Rooks Farm in 1881, although by this date she had retired from dairy farming.[4] By 1881 Rooks Cottage was occupied by a railway porter named Henry Massey, who shared the address with his wife Emma and the couple's eight children. Mrs Jewitt continued to live at the former farm throughout the 1880s and 1890s and was last listed as resident in a directory of 1899, shortly before her death towards the end of that year at the age of 73 (*Kelly's* 1899, 375). An Ordnance Survey map of 1897 revealed that the former farmhouse and its outbuildings had changed little during the preceding 30 years.

In 1901 Rooks Farm was occupied by James Ford, a 53-year-old self-employed carman or carter who earned a living transporting materials for the local brick and gravel industries.[5] Ford's son Joseph and his son-in-law Frederick Atkins both lived and worked in the family business at Rooks Farm. James Ford and his wife Jane had moved to an address in Old Farm Road by 1911, when Rooks Farm appears to have been empty. Ordnance Survey maps reveal that the land to the south of the former holding was developed during the interwar period, and by the mid-1930s the area was occupied by the houses on Drayton Gardens. Although the farm buildings appear to have survived until at least the end of the decade, post-war Ordnance Survey maps reveal that the site was subsequently redeveloped as a petrol filling station. In the mid-1960s the filling station was converted to a car showroom, which remained in use until its recent closure and subsequent redevelopment.

THE STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCE

Introduction

The investigations revealed activity spanning several millennia, with some potentially long spans of continual occupation separated by periods of apparent abandonment. There was a complex, multi-phased sequence of development, which is simplified here into four broad periods.

Prehistoric Enclosures Ditches and Pits

Lithic material dating to the Mesolithic (*c.*9600–*c.*4100 BC) and Early Neolithic periods (*c.*4100–*c.*3200 BC) was recovered from various residual contexts (see Bishop below). However, the earliest definable land use was the excavation of two approximately

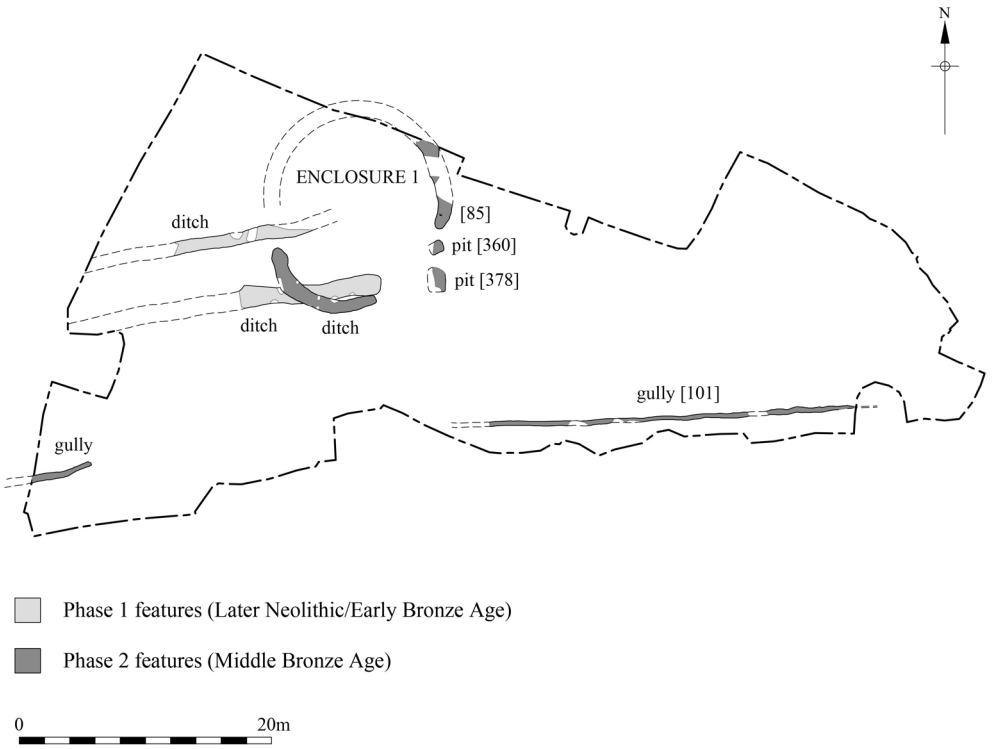

Fig 2. Prehistoric features: phase 1, Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age; and phase 2, Middle Bronze Age (scale 1:600)

parallel ditches (3m apart) on an east–west alignment, recorded in the western part of the site and extending beyond the western limit of excavation (Fig 2, phase 1). The southern ditch was up to 1.8m wide and 0.7m deep; it contained quantities of struck and burnt flint as well as fragments of burnt daub/clay at its eastern terminus. The northern ditch was a little more than 1m wide, but barely 100mm deep; its fill contained a single fragment of burnt flint. No further evidence for contemporary activity with this earliest phase of occupation was recognised and it is difficult to interpret these two features. It is possible that the southernmost ditch may have been a boundary feature, whilst the ditch to the north may have marked the edge of a parallel trackway. Although the finds assemblage is of limited value as a dating tool, these features are stratigraphically the earliest on the site, and on the available evidence they have been tentatively dated to the Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (*c.*3200–*c.*1500 BC).

The second phase was dominated by a segmented ditch that enclosed a small oval-shaped enclosure, with a maximum dimension of 18m across (Fig 2, Enclosure 1). Unfortunately, much of the north-western portion of this feature had been lost due to recent truncation and its identification therefore remains a little tentative. Two curvilinear ditch segments survived within the site, the southernmost of which truncated the earlier southern ditch. This section was up to 10m long and 1.4m wide, though only 0.3m deep at its north-western terminal. The second element to the north-east was truncated by a later prehistoric feature (*cf* Fig 3; see below). The more extensive part of this segment, [85], was present south of the truncation and sample excavation of its southern terminus revealed a 1.06m wide feature that was 0.75m deep with an asymmetric profile. A sequence of three fills was present, the primary one of which contained burnt flints and

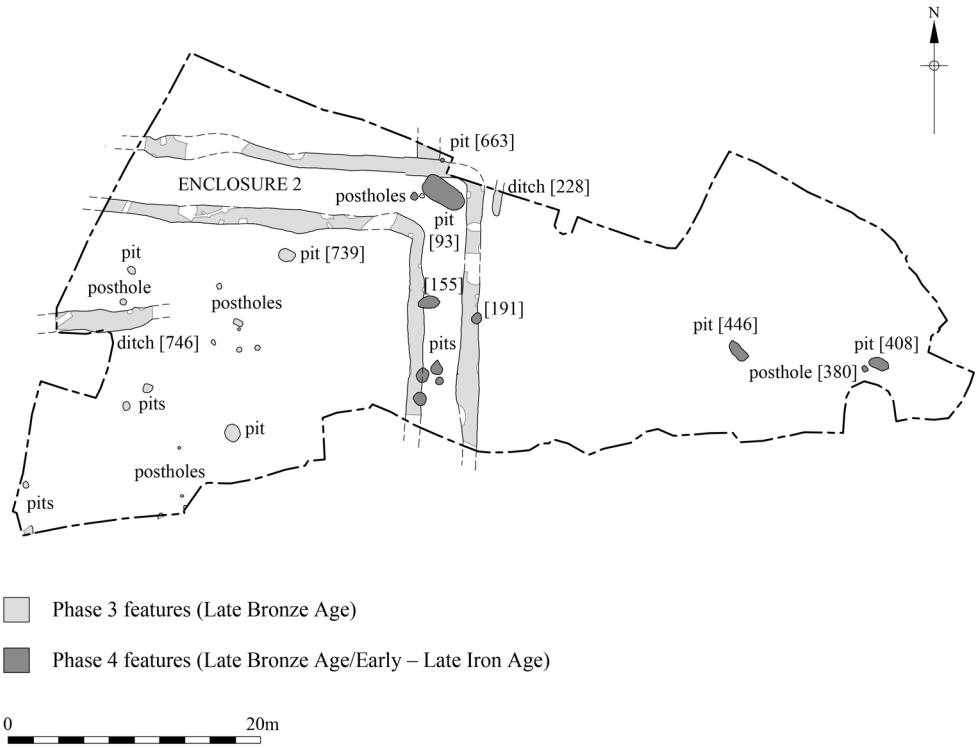

Fig 3. Prehistoric features: phase 3, Late Bronze Age; and phase 4, Late Bronze Age/Early–Late Iron Age (scale 1:600)

struck flint artefacts, including a transverse arrowhead, typologically of Later Neolithic date (*c.*3200–*c.*2000 BC), though the overall assemblage included some later material (see Bishop below). The secondary fill also contained burnt and struck flints, the latter comprising material of Middle Bronze Age and possibly later date. The tertiary fill included struck and burnt flints along with fragments of later prehistoric pottery, indicating the feature was finally backfilled some significant time after it had been dug.

South of the southern terminus of ditch section [85] was a rectangular pit, [360], measuring up to 1.2m across, which had no datable finds (Fig 2). A second pit, [378], to the south, appeared to be sub-rectangular, measuring 1.85m north to south by at least 0.9m east to west. It contained a small quantity of struck and burnt flints, the former including material typologically of Mesolithic to Neolithic and later prehistoric date.

Close to the southern edge of the site a narrow linear gully, [101], extended for more than 25m on an approximate east–west alignment. Its single fill produced small quantities of mixed date, struck and burnt flint as well as sherds of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury pottery (*c.*1600–*c.*1150 BC). The gully appeared to peter out to the west but reappeared towards the south-west corner of the site, where a small quantity of burnt and struck flints were discovered (Fig 2). This feature may originally have demarcated an early field or property boundary.

Although this second phase, like the first, was represented by only a few features, there was clearly some significant activity on the site, with the segmented ditch possibly having served a ritual or funerary function. Whilst a later prehistoric date may be ascribed to the worked flint recovered from a number of features, a Middle Bronze Age date is indicated by the presence of Deverel-

Rimbury pottery at the north margin of the site and in the gully to the south.

The third phase of prehistoric activity was dominated by the north-eastern portion of a large, double-ditched rectangular enclosure (Fig 3, Enclosure 2). The outer ditch measured at least 28m east to west by 22m north to south, whilst the inner one, located between 3m and 4m from the outer one, measured at least 26m east to west by 16m north to south. Both extended beyond the western and southern limits of excavation and apparently enclosed over 1,100m^2. The outer ditch, though heavily truncated, was almost 2m wide in places and up to 1.35m deep, with a steeply sloping, occasionally asymmetric profile and flattish base. It produced a quantity of struck and burnt flint along with a small amount of Post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) pottery, datable to the Late Bronze Age (*c.*1150–*c.*800 BC). The inner ditch was up to 1.5m wide and 0.47m deep, with a variable profile. A small quantity of PDR pottery, struck and burnt flints and daub were recovered from its backfill, the struck flint assemblage exhibiting predominantly later prehistoric technological traits, though two earlier cores were also present (see Bishop below).

A number of other features appeared to be contemporary with the enclosure ditches. A short distance east of the north-eastern corner of the outer ditch was a parallel north–south aligned linear ditch, [228], which terminated a little more than 2m south of the northern edge of the site. It held a small quantity of struck and burnt flints. Another ditch, [746], which was present within the enclosure, appears to have been contemporary with the enclosure ditches. It contained a quantity of burnt and struck flints along with a small amount of PDR pottery. Further to the east was an oval pit, [739], which contained abundant burnt material including fragments of charred bone perhaps representing a disturbed cremation burial.[6] Struck flints, daub fragments and 14 sherds of PDR pottery were also recovered from its backfill. Some ten dispersed postholes within the enclosure probably represent a series of contemporary timber structures. None of these postholes produced datable artefacts, but a small quantity of burnt and struck flints was recovered, along with the occasional sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery.

This phase probably represents part of a Late Bronze Age enclosed settlement. The limited artefactual evidence has not permitted precise dating of the features, but the associated pottery and lithics have confirmed a broad date range.

The latest prehistoric activity (phase 4) in the central portion of the site was characterised by five features cutting the backfilled enclosure ditches. These clustered along the eastern side of the earlier enclosure (Fig 3). At the northern edge of the site, the outer enclosure ditch was cut by a small posthole that contained a single, undated flint flake and may have been an element of a timber structure that extended northward of the occupation area. The southern margin of the outer enclosure ditch was cut by a large, sub-rectangular pit, [93], of uncertain function. Its secondary fill produced a small quantity of PDR pot along with struck and burnt flints. Further south was a smaller pit, [155], that cut the eastern edge of the inner enclosure ditch. It produced a small quantity of struck and burnt flints. To the east, the outer enclosure ditch was cut by a small oval pit or posthole, [191]. This contained a small quantity of struck flints. Further to the south was a cluster of closely spaced pits and/or postholes, though the function of this group of features, which produced few finds, remains unclear.

Although the majority of the latest prehistoric features were in the western half of the site, a small number were situated much further to the east (Fig 3). Pit [446] is situated here, and it is slightly irregular in plan without any finds, so its dating can only be tentative. Some distance further east was oval pit [408], which produced a small quantity of struck and burnt flints. Nearby was a probable posthole, [380], which also produced a single struck flint. Other contemporary features in this area may have been destroyed by modern truncation.

It is difficult to characterise this phase and to verify the contemporaneity of its features with confidence; accurate dating is difficult. However, a broad Late Bronze Age to Earlier Iron Age derivation (*c.*800–*c.*400 BC) is suggested, with some of the features possibly being of Later Iron Age date (*c.*400 BC–AD 43).

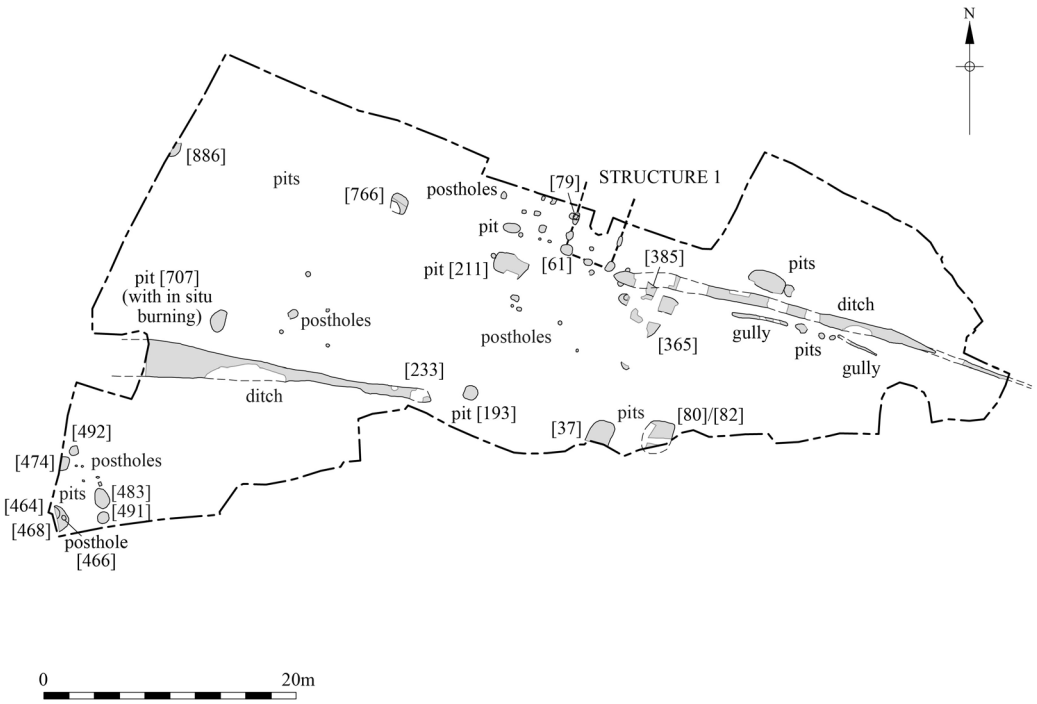

Fig 4. Earlier medieval features (scale 1:600)

Earlier Medieval Occupation (c.1050–c.1250)

Activity on the site appears to have ceased sometime during the Iron Age, and although residual Roman pottery and a fragment of glass were recovered, along with a residual sherd of Early Saxon pottery (*c.*AD 410–650), there does not appear to have been any significant further presence until the Late Saxon or Norman period (*c.*1050–1150).

A number of timber structures dated to the early medieval period, the larger of which were in the central part of the site and extended north beyond the limit of excavation (Fig 4, Structure 1). This was represented by a group of postholes delineating a rectangular structure measuring more than 5m from north-east to south-west and at least 4.5m east to west. Some of these postholes (including [79]) produced small groups of pottery broadly dating to *c.*1050–*c.*1150/1200 (see Jarrett below). There may also have been contemporary internal and external associated features. A group of eight postholes and a pit to the west may have been elements of a second building or perhaps have represented a western extension to the original structure. Some of these features produced pottery dated to *c.*1050–*c.*1150/1200.

A short distance to the south of the structure(s) was a large, sub-rectangular pit, [211] (Fig 4), the various fills of which contained pottery dated to *c.*1050–*c.*1200 (see Jarrett below). Approximately 5m to the south, a further row of postholes on a parallel alignment to the southern edge of the building may have been another structure or an associated fence line.

To the east of Structure 1 and following a similar alignment was a ditch that may have been contemporary, though it partly cut through two outlying postholes of the structure. Pottery dating to *c.*1150–*c.*1250 was recovered along with residual prehistoric material. To the south of the ditch, close to its western terminus were some fragmented features, possibly pits, some of which produced pottery dated *c.*1050–*c.*1200. Further to the east, a number of apparently

contemporary elements were located either side of the ditch. These only contained residual prehistoric material.

Two large, sub-rectangular pits, [37] and [80]/[82], lay along the southern edge of the site, both similar in size and morphology. Cut [80]/[82] had been heavily truncated by modern services (Fig 4). Pit [37] was up to 1.8m across and 0.93m deep. The primary fill contained a moderate group (22 sherds, 559g, 13 ENV) of late 12th-century pottery, whilst its secondary fill produced a substantial pottery assemblage (163 sherds, 9,543g, 10 ENV) including many large, conjoining sherds, representing a number of complete vessels (see Jarrett below). Pit [37] also contained charred cereal grains, mainly bread wheat (see Allot below; Table 3). Though the two pits exhibited many similarities and were probably linked, other than having been reused for rubbish disposal, their original intended use is unclear. Nearby was a smaller, oval feature, [193]; its primary fill included a single sherd of pottery dated *c.*1000–*c.*1200 and its upper fill contained a single sherd dated *c.*1050–*c.*1200. Running across the south-western portion of the site was a linear ditch, [233], aligned east–west with a terminal at its eastern end. This ditch was more than 2m wide and almost 1m deep at the western edge of the site and extended beyond the limit of excavation. Its fill included two sherds of pottery dated *c.*1050–*c.*1200 and a small assemblage of peg tile roofing material.

Towards the south-west corner of the site another group of features represented further contemporary activity (Fig 4). A number of postholes may have been part of a small construction, dating evidence for which was lacking, whilst a shallow, oval pit, [468], produced a single sherd of residual Roman pottery. Cut into this backfilled feature was a small pit, [464], and a posthole, [466]; the latter produced pottery dated *c.*1000–*c.*1200. Pits [491] and [483] included pottery dated to *c.*1050–*c.*1150. North-west of the possible structure, two further pits, [474] and [492], appeared to be contemporary; the former contained a single sherd of pottery dated to *c.*1000–*c.*1200.

A short distance to the north of ditch [233] was an oval pit, [707]. The base exhibited evidence for intense *in situ* burning to the extent that it had become partially vitrified, indicating that it had been used as a hearth or possibly even a small kiln. The burnt deposit produced a single sherd of pottery dated *c.*1050–*c.*1200 and two sherds of the same date were recovered from the backfill. A small group of features to the east may have been remnants of a further timber structure. These produced few finds though pottery and roof tile suggest a 12th- to 15th-century date. To the north-east was a roughly square pit, [766], which produced pottery dated to *c.*1050–*c.*1200.

Later Medieval Activity (c.1250–1500)

Although there was continuity of activity on the site into the later medieval period (post *c.*1250), it was not as clearly defined as the preceding phase. At the western margin, a group of features may represent the remnants of a timber building that extended beyond the western limit of excavation (Fig 5, Structure 2). Some probable postholes formed the eastern end of a timber building, which was at least 5m wide. Two of the features produced peg tile dated to *c.*1180–*c.*1500. To the south, a group of features was cut into the earlier medieval ditch. A series of postholes may have been part of another rectangular timber structure, though only a single sherd of pottery dated *c.*1050–*c.*1150 came from one of the posthole fills. Two pits, [552] and [508], adjacent to the postholes, may have been contemporary, but neither produced any datable finds. Pit [508] also contained charred cereal grains, mainly bread wheat (see Allot below; Table 3). Further to the east the earlier ditch ([233], Fig 4) appeared to have been partly recut, though its extent was curtailed by modern truncation. Further to the east, three more postholes may have formed elements of further structures though only two peg tile fragments broadly dated to post-1480 were recovered from these. Isolated posthole [648], to the north, may have been contemporary though this too only produced a single brick fragment dated to after 1450.

Close to the southern edge of the site was a large, oval rubbish pit, [122], which produced a small 15th-century pottery assemblage and a quantity of contemporary peg tile. The primary fill of another large oval

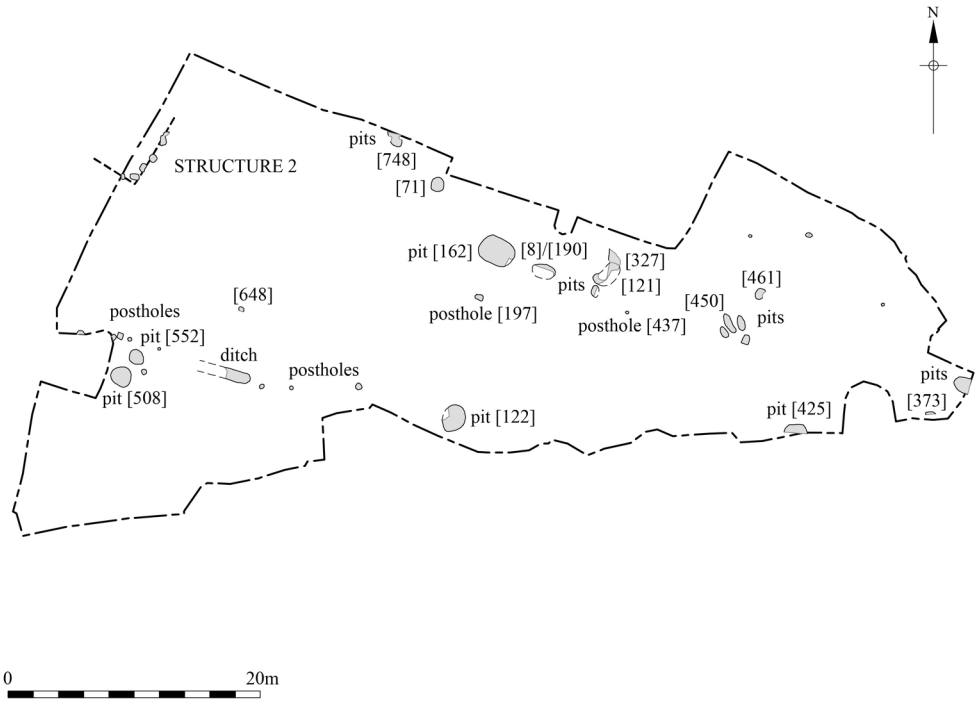

Fig 5. Later medieval features (scale 1:600)

rubbish pit, [162], produced pottery with a *terminus post quem* of *c.*1250–*c.*1350, whilst its secondary fill exclusively contained residual pottery. The tertiary fills encompassed a high proportion of burnt material and a small quantity of iron-working slag along with residual pottery, including a single Early Saxon sherd (see Jarrett below). It appears that this pit was used to dispose of waste material derived from metalworking carried out nearby.

To the north-west, two further features may also have been contemporary with pit [162]; a small cut, [71], contained two sherds of pottery broadly dated to *c.*1250–*c.*1625, and pit [748] at the northern edge of the site contained peg tile fragments broadly dated to post-1480. Feature [8]/[190] produced a small quantity of pottery dated to *c.*1270–*c.*1350 and a slightly later assemblage of peg tile. There were other contemporary features nearby, notably pit [327], which contained a late medieval finds assemblage. This was truncated by pit [121], which only produced residual finds. Posthole [437] to the south-east may have been contemporary.

Further to the east a small group of pits of uncertain function also appeared to be of later medieval date; two truncated the earlier medieval gully (*cf* Fig 4). One produced late 15th-century pottery and tile dated to *c.*1400–*c.*1600. Another pit or posthole, [461], north of the earlier ditch, produced later medieval pottery and fragments of peg tile (see Jarrett below). At the southern edge of the site was an oval pit, [425], which contained two sherds dating to *c.*1340–*c.*1500 and brick and peg tile fragments dated *c.*1480–*c.*1700. Finally, two features of late medieval date were in the south-east corner of the property, both of which contained later medieval pottery and fragments of peg tile. Pit [373] included sherds of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (see Jarrett below).

The Post-Medieval Period (1500–1900)

Activity in the 16th and early 17th centuries was evidenced by concentrations of larger

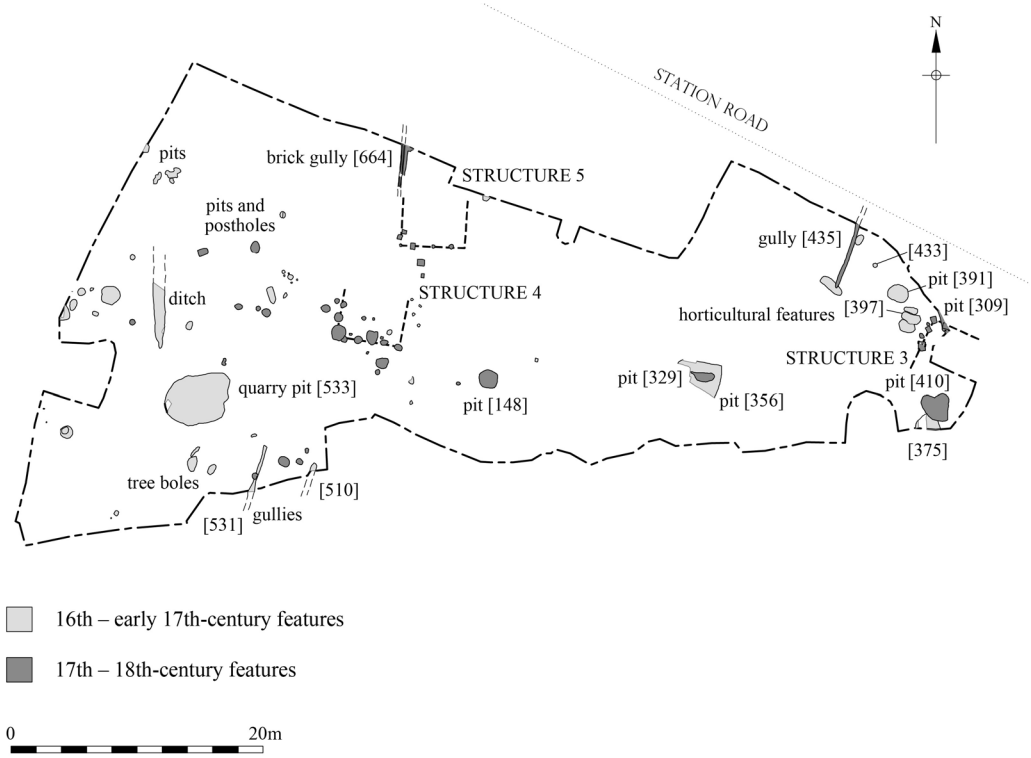

Fig 6. Post-medieval features: 16th–early 17th century and 17th–18th century (scale 1:600)

features at the eastern and western extremes of the site, with fewer, smaller features occupying the central area (Fig 6). Three contexts towards the south-east corner of the site produced pottery of 15th- to mid-16th-century date, whilst a further pit, [391], immediately to the north-west, may have been contemporary. A further large cut, [356], in the eastern part of the site, was sub-rectangular of uncertain function and yielded mid-15th- to 17th-century finds. Postholes to the south in a more central location may have been associated with further structures here, though no clear spatial patterns were evident. To the north-west was a further small group of contemporary contexts, which may have formed some type of ephemeral timber structure. A small, irregular group of elements towards the north-west corner of the site contained brick fragments dated to *c.*1450–*c.*1700. In the south-western portion of the area was a large, irregular possible quarry pit, [533], whilst a few features possibly associated with further structures lay here, along with two parallel gullies, [531] and [510], aligned south-west to north-east (Fig 6).

Although several contexts were attributed to this phase, it was difficult to identify any clear spatial patterns or any concentrations of closely datable material. Consequently, interpretation is difficult, though it is possible that this phase represents agrarian activity connected with a nearby farmyard.

During the 17th and 18th centuries concentrations of features on the eastern and western sides of the excavated area characterised the archaeological remains identified (Fig 6). In the south-eastern corner of the site, pit [410] contained a quantity of brick and peg tile fragments dated to *c.*1180–*c.*1725. To the north, a group of postholes and stakeholes were associated with a structure extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation (Structure 3) which appeared to be of 17th-century date. Stratigraphically later was sub-rectangular pit [309], dated to the late 17th century.

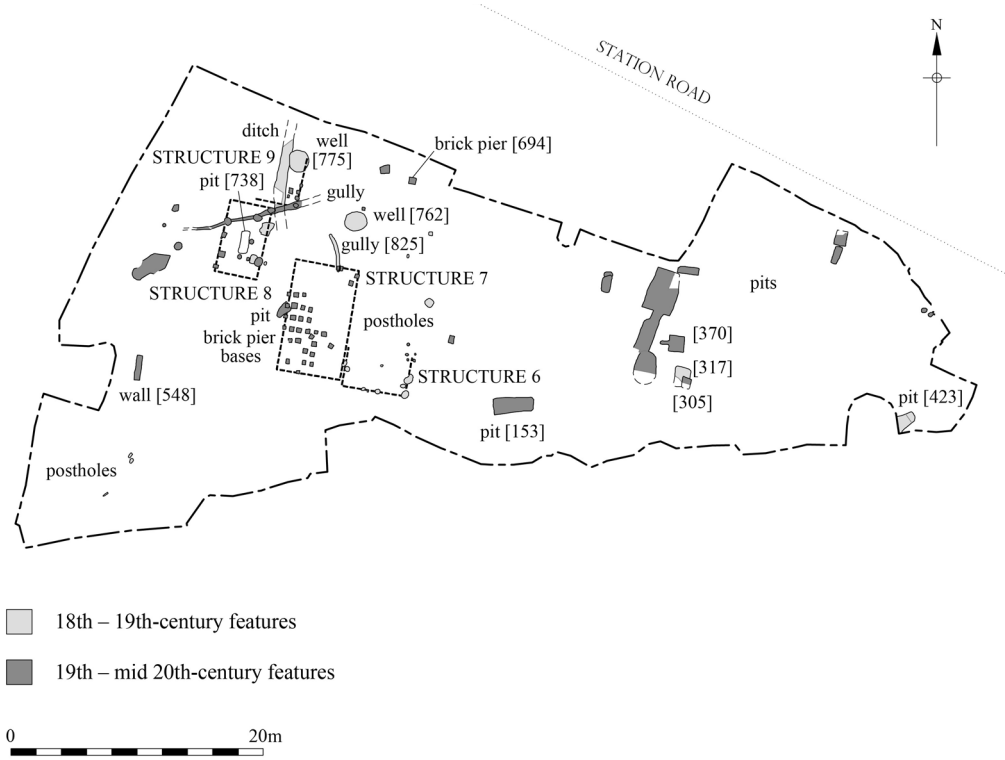

Fig 7. Post-medieval features: 18th–19th century and 19th–mid-20th century (scale 1:600)

Some distance to the north-west was a gully, [435], aligned perpendicular to Station Road. Pit [329] contained a 16th- to 18th-century finds assemblage.

In the central portion of the site was an oval pit, [148], of unknown function, and a short distance to the west was a single posthole, which contained a fragment of post-1666 brick. A group of features to the west are interpreted as the postholes alongside one or more timber structures (Fig 6, Structure 4). Associated finds suggest a 17th- or early 18th-century date. Another timber structure to the north was represented by a further group of postholes (Structure 5), which extended beyond the area of the surviving elements, other features having been lost to truncation. Nearby were the remains of a north–south aligned brick-lined cut, [664], which extended to the north of the site. It appeared to be a gully to channel roof water away from a building or drain an external yard. Its bricks provided a date of *c.*1180–*c.*1800. Further west were various scattered pits and postholes. One group of postholes followed a similar alignment to those along the southern edge of Structure 4 and may have represented another timber building.

Although the number of surviving features dating to this phase was limited, the pattern of activity emerging from them was clearer than that of the preceding phase. The majority appears to be associated with a number of timber structures, though there was a brick-lined drain. It seems likely that by this time the site was occupied by a farmyard, latterly attached to Rooks Farm (discussed above).

Activity during the later 18th and 19th centuries was represented by limited evidence across the eastern half of the site (Fig 7), apart from pit [423] that produced a small assemblage of brick fragments suggesting a post-1480 date range and sub-rectangular feature [317], which may have originally contained some type of structural foundation. Immediately south of earlier

Structure 4, a series of postholes appeared to be part of a possible replacement of this building (Structure 6) (*cf* Figs 6 and 7). These features were broadly dated to this period by finds of ceramic building materials and glassware. Further postholes to the north may also have represented elements of other contemporary structures. In the north-west quarter of the site were two large circular features, [762] and [775], probably wells or soakaways, though any internal linings were lost when they were backfilled at a later date. South-west of feature [762] was a possible drainage gully, [825], whilst to the west were three further features, which may have been associated with another structure.

Some clues to the lifestyle of the people living at Rooks Farm during this period are provided by finds of Chinese and English porcelain teacups, plus the base of an oriental style figurine. While a late 18th-century slipware dish was probably produced in Somerset and sold in Brentford, Middlesex (see Jarrett below). Finds of 18th- and 19th-century household objects included an ivory cutlery handle and a copper-alloy teaspoon. Farm tools included an iron sickle (see Gaimster below). The post-medieval faunal assemblage was dominated by mature cattle and sheep (see Rielly below).

Dating from the later 19th century to the mid-20th century were groups of features in the eastern portion of the site that may have represented elements of structures that extended further east (Fig 7). Here a group of truncated south-west to north-east aligned features have been interpreted as parts of the foundations of a 19th-century building of uncertain extent or plan. A square feature with a linear western appendage, [370], could represent an internal structural element. Some distance to the south-west was another large, rectangular pit, [153], which appears to have been another construction-related feature. Further to the west was a structure consisting of at least 28, mostly regularly spaced, north–south and east–west aligned square brick-built pier bases (Fig 7, Structure 7). It measured at least 7m north to south and 4.5m east to west, with possibly associated elements suggesting it may have been much larger. The brick piers probably represent the foundations of a raised granary situated within the farmyard of Rooks Farm. It may have replaced Structure 6 located immediately to the east. There appear to have been further buildings located to the north-west and north. One group of postholes formed a rectangular, timber structure (Structure 8) on a similar alignment to the aforementioned granary. Within the area enclosed by these postholes was a sub-rectangular pit, [738], containing the articulated bones of the forelimbs of a horse (see Rielly below). Nearby was an L-shaped arrangement of postholes representing part of another timber arrangement (Fig 7, Structure 9). Further postholes to the west may represent elements of more timber structures, whilst to the south of these the remnants of a brick-built wall foundation, [548], appear to represent part of the eastern wall of a building. A brick pier, [694], located close to the northern edge of excavation suggests the presence of another building.

The final phase of activity on the farm prior to its demolition and replacement with the garage complex present after 1945 (discussed above) was mainly represented by finds of refined white wares (see Jarrett below). One of the last activities to take place before the demolition of the farm was the backfilling of the two wells/soakaways, [762] and [775]. The backfill of the latter feature included the rim of a jug commemorating the coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra (9 August 1902).

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Barry Bishop

Introduction

The investigations resulted in the recovery of 397 pieces of struck flint (Table 1). The assemblage indicates that flint-working took place from the Mesolithic to at least the end of the Bronze Age, and there is also a small assemblage of flakes produced during the dressing of flint nodules for construction purposes that can be dated to the medieval period. Much of the prehistoric struck flint was recovered residually from medieval or later contexts, but nearly two thirds came from a series of prehistoric features. Some

Table 1. Quantification of lithic material from 70 Station Road

Type	No.	%
Decortication flake	36	9.1
Core rejuvenation flake	3	0.8
Flake	162	40.8
Flake fragment	61	15.4
Blade-like flake	16	4.0
Prismatic blade	12	3.0
Non-prismatic blade	18	4.5
Blade core	6	1.5
Flake core	20	5.0
Conchoidal chunk	34	8.6
Retouched	29	7.3
Total	397	100

of this material may well relate to the use of these, but they also contain a lot of residual material derived from earlier activity. The medieval flint work consists of imported flint nodules, whereas the raw materials used for the prehistoric assemblages comprised flint pebbles and small cobbles all apparently gathered from the local Pleistocene gravel terrace deposits.

Mesolithic and Early Neolithic (c.9600–c.3200 BC)

Up to a third of the assemblage is the product of a systematic blade-based reduction strategy and can be stylistically dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. This includes blades and blade-like flakes, which constitute 11.5% of the assemblage, six blade cores and a number of other technologically diagnostic pieces, such as core tablets and other rejuvenation flakes. A high proportion of the retouched implements from the site belong to these periods; these are dominated by a variety of edge-trimmed blades and blade-like flakes. There are also two possible micro-burins, which would confirm a Mesolithic presence and indicate the manufacture of microliths. All of these pieces were residual. Mesolithic and Neolithic activity is widely attested across the West London gravels but during this time the majority of settlements consisted of small ephemeral campsites, sometimes associated with pits during the latter part of the period, but for both more often than not there were just small scatters of artefacts and usually with only the lithics surviving. As is the case here, it is often only when diagnostic material is incorporated into later features that this evidence, and therefore occupation during these periods, becomes archaeologically visible.

Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c.3200–c.1500 BC)

Activity at the site during the Later Neolithic is evidenced by a finely made transverse arrowhead from Enclosure 1 of Green's (1980) chisel type or Clark's (1935) type B/C2 (Fig 8.1). Whilst this might be a chance loss, a small but significant proportion of the remainder of the assemblage suggests more established occupation. Around 10–20% of the flakes are thin and have narrow and carefully edge-trimmed or faceted striking platforms. They have been skilfully produced but are not the result of systematic reduction strategies; although not closely datable, they are most characteristic of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint-working techniques. Other retouched implements that may belong to these periods include an elaborately worked awl recovered from a later medieval pit, [450], and possibly one or two of the scrapers that have carefully formed symmetrical working edges (*eg* from the fill of early Late Bronze Age ditch [746]). The flint work of this period may be broadly contemporary with the earliest features at the site – the two parallel ditches. These are not closely dated but one did produce an assemblage of struck flint from its southernmost terminus. This consisted of 12 flakes, six rather randomly reduced cores and two conchoidally fractured chunks, but no retouched or other diagnostic pieces. This collection is in a good condition and, although it does not represent *in situ* flint-working, it is technologically relatively heterogeneous. Overall there is little to distinguish its technological characteristics from the later prehistoric flint work described below.

Later Prehistoric Flint-Working (c.1500–c.800 BC)

At least half of the overall assemblage can be dated to the later prehistoric period, the latter parts of the second or early first

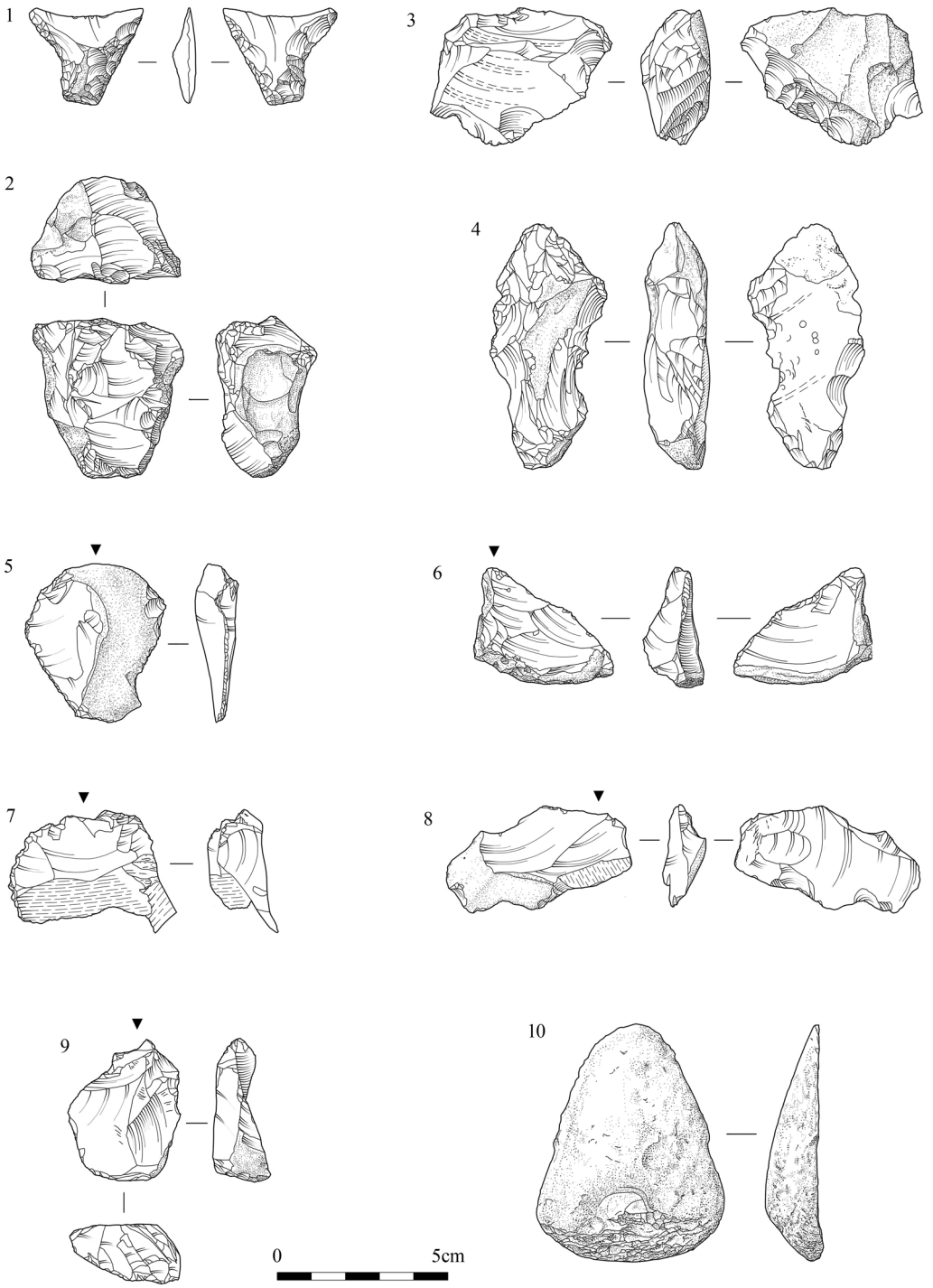

Fig 8. Prehistoric struck and worked flints. No. 1 is derived from Enclosure 1 and the others are all later prehistoric finds from Enclosure 2. Key: 1. Later Neolithic transverse arrowhead from [99]; 2–4. Thick flakes and opportunistically reduced flake cores used as tools from [714]; 5–9. Secondarily worked implements suggestive of cutting, chopping or scraping usage from [714]; 10. Pink quartzite, heavily abraded cobble used as a pounding or grinding tool from [714] (scale 1:2)

millennium BC (Herne 1991; Young & Humphrey 1999; McLaren 2009). It is dominated by variably sized but mostly short and thick flakes that often have wide, unmodified and markedly obtuse striking platforms. It also includes high proportions of cores and many of the conchoidally fractured chunks are also likely to represent later prehistoric cores that disintegrated during reduction. The complete cores are irregularly shaped and mostly cursorily worked, with flakes removed from numerous and seemingly arbitrary directions from any surface deemed appropriate, often cortical surfaces. Retouched pieces likely to belong to this period include a variety of non-formal implements with notched, denticulated or irregularly retouched edges. These assemblages reflect an expedient approach to obtain serviceable edges and much of the material appeared to arise from little more than randomly hitting pieces of raw material until sufficient quantity of flakes had been detached.

Most of the later prehistoric flint work came from medieval or later contexts but it is broadly contemporary with the features associated with the phases of Middle–Late Bronze Age activity identified during the excavations which produced 215 struck flints. It is not easy to relate any of these features directly with their contained struck flint; later prehistoric flint work can be broadly dated to a period covering these phases, and most of the features also include what are evidently much earlier residually deposited pieces. This latter problem is particularly true for struck flint from Enclosure 1 and other features of apparent Middle Bronze Age date which, although amounting to 63 pieces, most if not all was likely to have been produced prior to the Middle Bronze Age. The ditches of succeeding rectangular Enclosure 2 also provided a large assemblage totalling 54 pieces, with associated ditch [746] contributing a further 49 pieces. Whilst some of this material is clearly residual, a high proportion is more characteristic of later prehistoric industries and these include thick flakes and opportunistically reduced flake cores, some of which may have been used as tools in their own right (*eg* Fig 8.2–4), and secondarily worked implements suggestive of cutting, chopping, or scraping uses (Fig 8.5–9). Ditch [746] also produced a fragment from a large pink quartzite cobble that has a heavily abraded end evidently used as a pounding or grinding tool (Fig 8.10). Few of the other features associated with this enclosure produced struck material. The largest assemblage consisted of 11 pieces recovered from pit [663], which included a few possible later prehistoric flakes but most probably pre-date the pit.

Overall, the assemblages from the later prehistoric features are dominated by residual pieces and the flint work that is broadly contemporary is not suggestive of *in situ* knapping, or even the dumping of debris from closely related knapping episodes. Instead it is more reminiscent of material that was casually discarded and 'kicking' around for some time prior to deposition. This does fit a pattern seen more broadly with later prehistoric flint-working. Typically, assemblages from this period are small, have a high utilisation rate and are present in low densities scattered within settlements or across the field systems. They represent opportunistic and short-lived knapping episodes whereby, when required, pieces of readily available raw materials were struck with only little proficiency until suitable edges were procured, and once the task was completed the flint would be discarded with little formality.

Medieval Flint-Working

A collection amounting to 47 flakes and conchoidally shattered fragments contrast with the prehistoric material. These pieces are derived from large and relatively unweathered nodules of flint that had been brought to the site from sources close to the chalk. The flaking is extremely crude and the collection is dominated by decortication flakes and shattered pieces that appear to be derived from the dressing of nodules, probably for wall construction. The largest quantities of debris came from pit [8], which also produced pottery dating to *c.*1270–*c.*1350 (see above). No flint masonry was identified on site, but the evidence for the preparation of flint cobbles as a construction material on site which would have been deployed in the construction of more prestigious buildings in the area is

noteworthy. For instance, the nearby parish church of St Martin has flint walls (Meddens 2013, 35). If a medieval manor house did not exist within these lands, then the principal farms on the estate and their tenants would have fulfilled the manor house's managerial role instead. The proximity of the site to the 12th-century church of St Martin suggests that this farm might have served as the local centre from which the church's construction was managed. Indeed, whether a manor house was in existence or not, the closeness of the farm to the construction site of the church would have made this logistically the logical location to manage the works from.

The Post-Roman Pottery

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

The bulk of the post-Roman pottery assemblage dates from the 11th through to the 20th centuries. Larger quantities of 11th- to early 13th-century pottery types indicate more intense activity at this time with early South Hertfordshire grey ware being the principal locally produced material present. Smaller quantities of later medieval and early post-medieval pottery may indicate decreased activity up to the late 18th century when the usage of pottery increased. At the same time, slip-decorated fine red earthenware pottery appears across the study area and, together with the evidence from other contemporaneous pottery groups excavated in West London, provides proof of the presence of this component of the local red ware industry.

In total the post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 927 sherds/536 minimum number of vessels (MNV) and weighed 23.849kg. Fabric codes cited are posted on the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) website,[7] aside from fabrics dating to the Saxon period (references given below) and the Hertfordshire medieval fabric types which were recorded using the system of Turner-Rugg (1993).

Early Medieval

A significant proportion of the early medieval pottery was recovered from residual contexts. The material included a sherd of Early Saxon pottery comprising a jar shoulder, which had an externally wiped surface, the fabric equating to Blackmore and Vince's sand-tempered ware (ESANA: 2008, 176; see 'Discussion and Conclusions' below). Other residual finds included wheel-thrown south Hertfordshire-type grey ware (SHER), dated *c.*1170–*c.*1350, which constituted a good proportion of the pottery and was present in jar and jug forms. Jugs, including Kingston-type ware (KING) and a sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware (BRIM) appear to have been contemporaneous with SHER and constituted small quantities of glazed wares.

The largest group of post-Roman pottery dates to the 11th to 13th centuries, with the assemblage dominated by early south Hertfordshire-type coarse ware (ESHER), dated *c.*1050–*c.*1150. Kilns producing this pottery type are known nearby at Denham, Buckinghamshire (Farley & Leach 1988), and Uxbridge, Middlesex (Knight & Jeffries 2004). There are also smaller amounts of early Surrey ware (ESUR), dated *c.*1050–*c.*1150 (Vince & Jenner 1991, 73–5), with a handful of sherds in its contemporaneous finer version, early medieval Surrey iron-rich sandy ware (EMIS) as well as the developed version (DESUR), dated *c.*1050–*c.*1250. Pottery from Hertfordshire mostly consists of early medieval calcareous wares (EMSC), unglazed sandy and gritty (EMS) and flint-tempered (EMFL) wares. A single sherd of later south Hertfordshire-type grey ware, dated *c.*1170–*c.*1350 (SHER: Blackmore & Pearce 2010) was also present. Smaller quantities of pottery are sourced from the Thames Valley area and include early medieval chalk-tempered ware (EMCH: Vince & Jenner 1991, 70–2) and organic ware (MORG), dated *c.*1000–*c.*1200 (Blackmore 1997). Its frequency here and at other sites in West London indicates local manufacture. A sherd of early medieval shell-tempered ware (EMSH) (Vince & Jenner 1991, 63–8) was also present. Single sherds from London comprise a London-type ware (LOND) jug and examples from unknown sources, including a sherd of early medieval grog-tempered ware (EMGR: Vince & Jenner 1991, 80–1) and four miscellaneous wares (MISC).

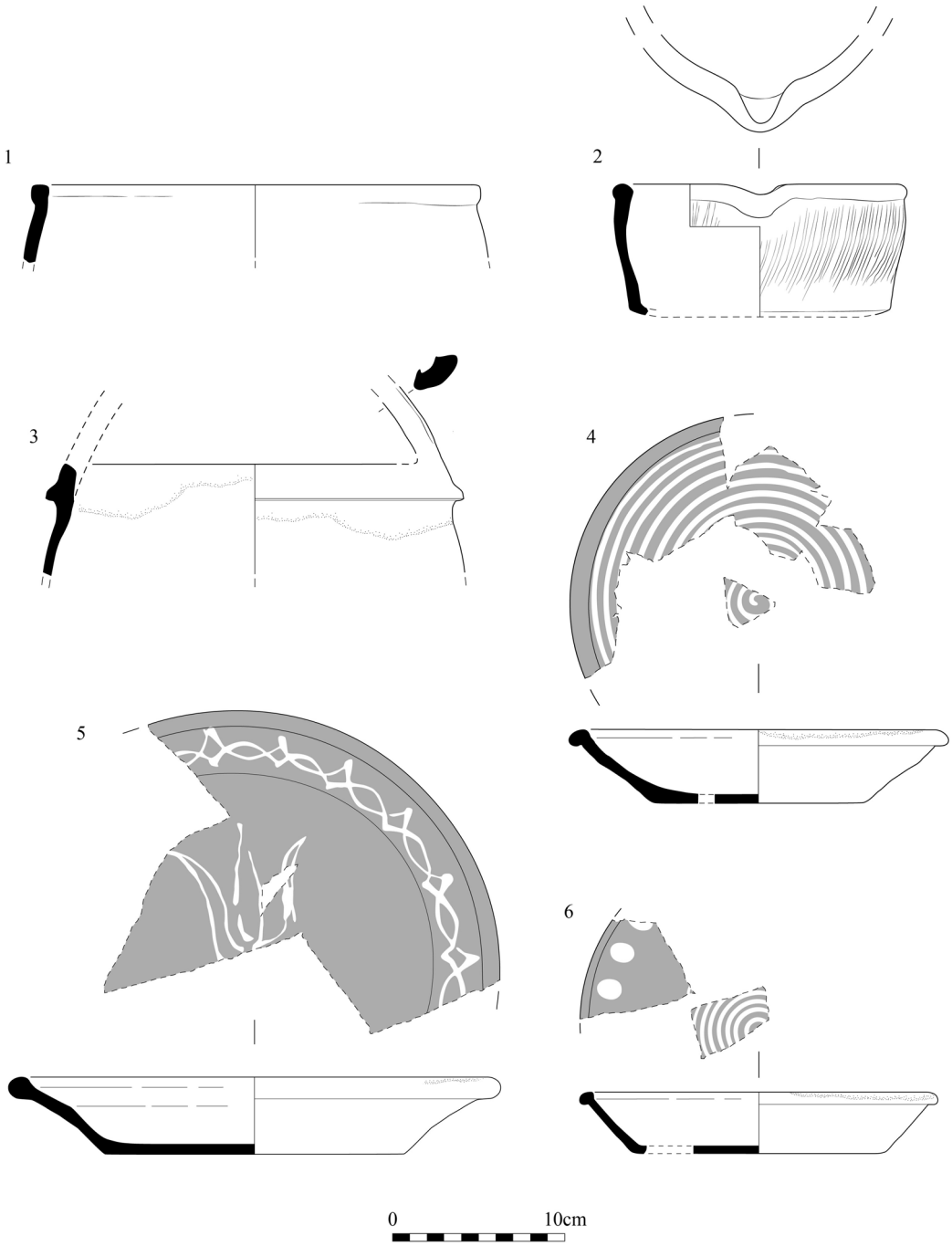

Fig 9. Post-medieval pottery. Key: 1. Tall rounded jar in late medieval sandy red ware (LMSR) from [433]; 2. Flared bowl with a pouring lip in early south Hertfordshire-type coarse ware (ESHER) from [766]; 3. Basket handled jar in a high-fired, oxidised fine earthenware (MISC) from [531]; 4. Local fine red ware dish decorated with white slip trailing in a concentric pattern from [329]; 5. Post-medieval fine red ware (PMFR) flared dish with an interior oval and cable border on the rim and a central design of a Turkish-type tulip (pointed petals) and an olive coloured glaze from [309]; 6. Post-medieval fine red ware (PMFR) flared dish with a large white slip dot design with a central concentric circle or spiral motif from [304] (scale 1:4)

Four broad ceramic phases were identified amongst the earlier medieval material on the site, the first two being defined by a small number of deposits which may pre-date the features containing ESHER. The first ceramic phase was identified in posthole [79] (Fig 4) and contained a jar with an everted rim exhibiting rounded internal thickening and made in a flint-tempered EMCH variant fabric, along with six sherds of MORG, which perhaps indicate an early 11th-century deposition date. The feature was truncated by pit [69], which only contained a sherd of ESUR, dated *c.*1050–*c.*1150. The latter probably falls into a second ceramic phase as represented in pit [483], which produced sherds of Surrey wares EMIS and ESUR, as well as the Hertfordshire EMS fabric, and may signify a late 11th-century deposition date, although ESHER is absent. A third ceramic phase may date to the late 11th century as demonstrated by other contexts, such as the fills of gully [12], posthole [61], posthole [365] and ditch [385] (Fig 4), which included sherds of handmade fabrics: EMCH, MORG, Hertfordshire EMS and EMSF, while ESUR and ESHER were particularly well represented. The only forms identified were jars or cooking pots, none of which were decorated. The implications are that during the late 11th century mainly early Surrey wares were utilised and sometime later the grey ware ESHER became a dominant supply. These may have originated from the ESHER kilns at Uxbridge some 8km to the north. Of note was a flared bowl made in oxidised Hertfordshire EMS fabric found in pit [474] (Fig 4).

A fourth ceramic phase dates to the late 12th to early 13th century, when wheel-thrown or finished ESHER tended to be the dominant pottery type, such as in pit [211] (Fig 4). Occasional sherds of other contemporary wares were also recorded, including late 12th- to early 13th-century LOND (Pearce *et al* 1985). This fourth ceramic phase is best represented in two groups: large pit [37] (Fig 4) produced mostly sherds of ESHER, the lowest fill with two sherds of a MORG jar, and single sherds of EMSC and DESUR, dated *c.*1150–*c.*1250, while ESHER was present comprising 18 sherds from approximately ten rounded jars or cooking pots. Some of the vessels appeared handmade while others had wheel-finished rims. At least one had a complete profile, while another had a thumbed rim. One shoulder sherd had vertical 'twig' scratched or combed decoration. The latest fill produced single sherds of EMSH and ESUR which were almost certainly residual, while the ESHER was largely in the form of medium or tall rounded jars. These were all in a fragmentary state, although two vessels could be almost fully reconstructed. These had expanded, wheel-thrown rims (T-shaped in profile), short necks and rounded shoulders, while the body was decorated with applied strips, combing or vertical combing/'twig' scratch decoration. One jar additionally had thumb decoration on the exterior edge of its rim. A wheel-thrown flared profile dish was the only other identifiable ESHER vessel, it had a flat-topped expanded rim and vertical combed line decoration on the wall. The vessel was internally sooted, so it is possible that this was a curfew, although the usual handle and perforations on the top of the vessel were missing.

A small group of pottery from pit [766] (Fig 4) included ESHER vessels similar to those found in pit [37]. The jars were again decorated with either vertical applied thumbed strips or combing, or both. A hand-made flared bowl with a pouring lip and combed diagonal line decoration on the wall was also present (Fig 9.2).

At Rush Green, Denham (some 7km north), three periods of pottery wasters (equating to ESHER) were found. The second phase here was defined by jars with fingertip-decorated rims, deeper necks and scored body decoration, dated to the 12th possibly very early 13th century. The third period of jar production at Denham comprised jars without rim thumbing and vertical combing, shorter necked vessels and frequent thumbed, applied strips and squared rims of 13th-century date (Farley & Leach 1988, 76). Jars from pits [37] and [766] appear to match both of the two later phases of Denham pottery production, although the two groups have even better parallels with the Uxbridge kiln site where vertical combing in combination with applied strips dated to the late 12th to late 13th century (Knight & Jeffries 2004, 46–7).

Later Medieval

A much smaller quantity of pottery was recovered from later medieval contexts. Much of this material was residual, mostly consisting of early medieval wares (see above). Wheel-thrown south Hertfordshire-type grey ware (SHER), dated *c.*1170–*c.*1350, constituted a good proportion of this pottery and was present in identifiable jar and jug forms. Jugs, including Kingston-type ware (KING) and a sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware (BRIM) appear to have been contemporaneous with the SHER and constituted small quantities of glazed wares. In the early medieval phase, SHER was extremely rare (one sherd) and it would appear therefore that this pottery type only became important on the site once the ESHER industry went into decline during the 13th century, with SHER replacing it as the main pottery type until *c.*1350. The sources for SHER could have been a number of kiln sites located in Hertfordshire (Turner-Rugg 1993), although other kilns or waster groups are known from Middlesex, such as Pinner (Shepherd 1977), some 15km to the north-east.

The contemporary late medieval wares identified for this phase were in a fragmentary state and accounted for roughly a third of the pottery by sherd count. A small quantity of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW), dated *c.*1270–*c.*1500, was present, largely consisting of jug sherds. Sherds of a cooking pot and a flat-rimmed bowl from pit [373] (Fig 5) were also present, as were two sherds with red slip decoration, probably derived from cisterns/bung-hole jars. In this industry, flat-rimmed vessels and cisterns are typologically dated to *c.*1340–*c.*1500 (Pearce & Vince 1988). The other Surrey white wares comprise two sherds of KING, dated to *c.*1240–*c.*1400, and the finer Cheam ware (CHEA), dated *c.*1350–*c.*1500, included the base of a small jug from pit or posthole [461] (Fig 5). Another production supplier was the South Midlands, although manufacturing sites may be more local, the material comprising high-fired late medieval/transitional sandy red ware (LMSR), dated to the late 15th and 16th century. Just five unglazed body sherds were present, although one had a metallic wash. Part of the latter tradition was a miscellaneous ware (MISC) with abundant fine chalk tempering, surviving with a bowl rim recovered from pit [373]. A small quantity of jug sherds in BRIM, dated *c.*1175–*c.*1625 (Mellor 1994, 111–40), was also present.

Post-Medieval

A small assemblage of pottery associated with activity dated to *c.*1480–1600 was recorded. This was less fragmentary than material from the preceding period. There was a notable change in the ceramic profile from the site with the transitional red wares (mostly coded LMSR) accounting for a significant part of the assemblage. The forms present included bowls or dishes and a jar found in pit [397] (Fig 6), while a tall rounded jar (Fig 9.1) was found in pit/posthole [433] (Fig 6). A basket-handled jar with an external clear glaze in a miscellaneous high-fired, oxidised fine earthenware (MISC) with very occasional large quartz grains was noted from gully [531] (Figs 6 and 9.3). A small quantity of pottery came from a Surrey-Hampshire border source and included jug sherds in coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW), as well as the finer innovation of the early Surrey-Hampshire border white ware (EBORD: Pearce 1999), dated *c.*1480–*c.*1550. This derived from pits [391] (Fig 6) and [396] and comprised drinking jugs. The first imports date to this period and are German Raeren stoneware (RAER) drinking jugs, dated *c.*1480–*c.*1500. These finds were either unstratified or residual.

The 17th- to 18th-century deposits produced relatively small quantities of pottery with broad date ranges and no closely datable ceramic types or decorative elements present. This situation was compounded by the dominance of red earthenwares, which derived from new sources in production for three centuries or more. Fine red earthenwares (PMFR) and London-area coarse red wares (PMR) were found in similar quantities. Fine red earthenwares are usually associated with Essex (Nenk & Hughes 1999), although their manufacture is also known from Hertfordshire at Woodside (Ashdown & Davey 1970) and other locations (Turner-Rugg 1998–9, 75). The high frequency of fine red earthenwares found on the site in 17th- to 19th-century deposits

suggest a local supply of this pottery type, possibly from Hertfordshire, which is closer than the Essex sources, such as Harlow, which probably stopped pottery production by the late 18th century (Davey & Walker 2009, 172). Alternatively, a local source of fine red ware production may have been at Brentford, approximately 13km to the east of the site. Potters are recorded as working in New Brentford from 1691 and at least two potteries were active here in the 18th and 19th centuries, the last one still operating in *c.*1946 (Hicks 1982, 141). Only one archaeological excavation to date has uncovered evidence for Brentford's pottery industry; four circular 19th-century kilns producing chimney pots and flowerpots were identified at Clayponds Lane, Pottery Road (Bloice 1976, 371). Therefore, there is little comparative material to contrast the Brentford slipware fabric to.

Forms in the local fine red ware comprised bowls and dishes, one of which from pit [329] was decorated with white slip trailing in a concentric pattern (Figs 6 and 9.4). This is discussed below with other slipwares. London-area coarse red wares were also present in the form of bowls or dishes, as well as a jar rim with wear marks. A sherd of a bowl or dish in London-area post-medieval slipped red ware with clear (yellow) glaze (PMSRY) was in a finer fabric than the norm and may have been made at either Cheam or Kingston (both in Surrey) where red wares were produced *c.*1480–*c.*1550 (Orton 1982; Nelson 1981). The only other red ware noted for this period was a sherd of Surrey-Hampshire border red ware (RBOR), dated *c.*1550–*c.*1900, although its external surface was corrugated and attributed to the mid–late 17th century (Pearce 1992, 18). A small quantity of LMSR was also noted for this phase in the form of jug sherds, which showed evidence of glazing.

Pottery from the late 18th and 19th century comprised a moderate assemblage which was largely in a fragmentary state. Typically for this period was a change in ceramic profile with non-local wares from the Midlands and elsewhere accounting for much of the assemblage, vessels mostly consisting of plain or decorated cream wares, pearl wares and a small quantity of refined white ware (*eg* ironstone *etc*), as well as *c.*1720–80 white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG). Forms typically consisted of table and tea wares along with a chamber pot. Additionally, there were three sherds of English porcelain representing two teacups and the base of a figurine (imitating Chinese *blanc de Chine*) featuring an oriental figure riding a dragon. This item was possibly of late 18th-century date and came from posthole [305] (Fig 7). The 18th-century dated wares, including delftware (or tin-glazed ware) (see below), were invariably fragmentary and deposited in 19th-century deposits.

Fine red earthenwares, possibly made at Brentwood, accounted for a good proportion of the pottery for this period covering bowls, dishes and a chamber pot. Some may be residual, including a rounded mug found in posthole [305]. Notable here was a small group of trailed slipware decorated forms made in the fine earthenware fabric. The forms comprised the splayed base of a rounded bowl or chamber pot, decorated with a discrete St Andrew's cross and four dots in each quarter, and two flared dishes. The first had an oval and cable border on the rim and a central design with a Turkish-type tulip (pointed petals) and an olive coloured glaze (Fig 9.5). The second had a design of large white slip dots on the interior vessel wall and a central concentric circle or spiral design on the base (Fig 9.6). The pottery from posthole [305] consisted mostly of late 18th-century wares. The latest pottery types were pearl wares indicating deposition in the second decade of the 19th century. Four clay tobacco pipe bowls, all of Oswald's (1975) general typology type 12, dated *c.*1730–80, with three initialled 'W P' (sfs 7–9) and probably made by William Pickman working *c.*1766–1818 on the High Street, Uxbridge, were present (Pearce 2000, 167).

The slipwares from pit [329] and posthole [305] added to a growing body of evidence for a local late 18th-century or possibly early 19th-century slipware tradition. The flared dish with the cable and tulip design (Fig 9.5) has some resemblance to Metropolitan slipware (METS) made in Essex, dated to *c.*1630–*c.*1700 (*eg* Davey & Walker 2009), except that the decoration is more limited and far less cluttered than the Essex variants, and central tulip designs are so far not reported from Harlow. Slipwares are known

from Stanwell (Leary 2004, 274, fig.3, 1–4) where they have been dated to the mid-18th to early 19th century, and from a clearance group dated to *c.*1785–1800 from The King's Arms, Uxbridge (Pearce 2000, 159–61, figs 18–19). They have been described as Donyatt/-type slipwares. Donyatt, in Somerset, had a long tradition of pottery making and produced post-medieval pottery in a range of fabrics (Coleman-Smith & Pearson 1988, 104–5). Its repertoire of slip-trailed designs, sometimes employing added wet sgraffito decoration, was shared or copied by other 17th- and 18th-century southern England industries, for example Wanstrow, west Somerset (Good & Russett 1987, 38, fig 4), Dorchester, Dorset (Draper 2001, 56–9), and Crane Street, Chichester, West Sussex (Down 1981, 196–212). With a concentration of such slipwares in West London, it would appear that here these are a product of a local pot house(s). Post-medieval red ware pottery production is poorly understood in West London and the home counties surrounding it, though the pottery kilns at Brill, Buckinghamshire, which produced a distinctive marbled slipware, are fairly well known (*eg* Farley 1979). This slipware was probably retailed locally in Brentford.

London-area wares were mostly 18th-century tin-glazed wares in the form of bowls and plates, as well as a small quantity of stoneware (LONS) including a cylindrical bottle and tankard. Coarse red wares from London were absent from this phase. A small quantity of pottery imported from China was present in the form of porcelains, mostly 18th-century blue and white table and tea wares. Most the porcelain was recovered from posthole [305], except for a famille rose decorated fluted bowl from pit [317] (Fig 7). Three sherds from the Surrey-Hampshire border were identified; all in not further classified red ware forms.

Pottery associated with the early 20th-century occupation of the farm accounted for a moderate assemblage and continued a similar ceramic profile to that of the previous activity, with most of the material from a general British or Midlands source. Of this group refined white wares in various styles were frequent and included the rim of a jug with a lithographic printed design, depicting the coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra (August 1902), found in well [775] (Fig 7). New pottery types such as bone china (BONE), English majolica (MAJO) and yellow ware (YELL) made their first appearance in this phase. Small quantities of contemporaneous, more locally made pottery included nine sherds from the fine red earthenware source in the form of a flowerpot, medium rounded bowl and two chamber pot bases. Pottery with a London origin included stoneware (LONS) in the shape of a blacking bottle and small rounded jug, as well as three PMR flowerpots. A possible import comprised the recessed base of a ginger jar in a buff earthenware with blue line decoration. This may be from an oriental source and was found in a late 19th-century pit, [403].

Discussion

The close proximity of the Uxbridge early south Hertfordshire grey ware kiln (Knight & Jeffries 2004) renders this the best candidate for being the main supplier of pottery to the study area during the late 12th to early 13th century and almost totally excludes the consumption of other pottery types at this time. Certainly, a paucity of glazed pottery, particularly of jugs, indicates a ceramic profile similar to that of Hertfordshire where local wheel-thrown coarse wares dominated the market (Turner-Rugg 1995). Pottery types dating to the mid-13th to mid-15th century are rather sparse in the assemblage, probably reflecting a low intensity land use. Indeed, the absence of late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware (LMHG: Jenner & Vince 1983), dated *c.*1340–*c.*1450, a pottery type the distribution of which would certainly have encompassed the site, may indicate it becoming more intensively used in the late 15th century and explains the presence of the late medieval Surrey white wares (CBW and CHEA) alongside the transitional red wares.

Further increases in ceramic use were evident from the late 18th century on, particularly evinced by the large group of pottery recovered from feature [305]. This pottery entailed the typical, often fashionable types for the period, such as cream wares, later pearl wares, white salt-glazed stoneware, tin-glazed ware and a small, but notable amount of Chinese porcelain, in the form of

table wares. Of note is an English porcelain figurine imitating Chinese *blanc de Chine*. If the pottery was derived from the farmhouse located on or close to the site, it suggests a household with a comfortable economic lifestyle, which was also buying local fine red earthenware, including slip-decorated items.

The Small Finds

Märit Gaimster

Introduction

Fewer than 50 metal and other small finds were retrieved from the site, all from medieval and post-medieval contexts. The assemblage was dominated by iron nails, but small quantities of personal and household objects were also present.

Later Medieval

A possible tool is represented by a fragment of the posterior end of a cattle pelvis with both sides polished from frequent handling, (sf 13) [406]. The bone is diagonally worn on the ventral lateral and dorsal medial surfaces, producing two abraded edges in opposite directions. The wear suggests the bone was used in a single-hand motion, from left to right and right to left; it may have been employed to grind something or to polish a pliable surface like leather.

Late 15th to early 16th centuries

Two iron buckles may be from belts or a horse harness. One is rectangular and retains a now displaced pin with a simple flattened base rolled around the frame, (sf 10) [390]. The other is much distorted, but remnants of a separate spindle show it would have had a central bar, (sf 11) [390]. This buckle could have a parallel in an early 16th-century example from Southwark (Egan 2005, fig 17 no. 87). A third object from this phase is the circular finial of a strap mount, perhaps from a chest or casket, (sf 12) [390].

17th and 18th centuries

The only significant find for the 17th-/18th-century period was a fragment of a sturdy millstone grit hone for sharpening knives and tools, (sf 16) [308].

18th and 19th centuries

A small group of household objects included an ivory cutlery handle with a pistol-shaped grip, characteristic of this period, (sf 2) [304], and the bowl of a copper-alloy teaspoon (sf 3). A section of a flat, curved iron strap may be a remnant of an iron trivet, (sf 15) [306], designed to lift pots and pans off the direct heat of the fire; it should be noted that these items rarely survive (*cf* Feild 1984, fig 52). Besides kitchen or household utensils, the fragmentary piece of an iron sickle with a wooden handle was also recovered, (sf 14) [306]. The latter makes perfect sense for a site which was used as a farm at this time. An unstratified copper-alloy button is also likely to date from this phase, (sf 5) [+]. This is a disc button, possibly made of tombac, a brass alloy with a high copper content which was widely used during the 18th century. The raised soldered cone for the fixing loop at the back is characteristic of this period (Bailey 2004, 40; *cf* Noël Hume 1969, fig 23, Type 8).

Conclusions

The small finds from West Drayton are mostly characteristic of rural and farmyard activities. The 18th- and 19th-century household and personal objects represent widely used items from this period.

The Animal Bones

Kevin Rielly

Introduction

The bones described were entirely derived from medieval and post-medieval deposits. Several environmental samples were taken, particularly from earlier horizons, but the contents of these proved inconsequential, with just one identifiable fragment of bone from an early post-medieval deposit present.

Description of Faunal Assemblage

The site produced a total of 172 hand-collected bone fragments (Table 2), as well as a minor quantity of bone from a single soil sample. Most of the bones were well preserved, although there was a generally high level of fragmentation with most of the

Table 2. Counts of hand collected animal bone in each occupation phase at 70 Station Road

Date (centuries)	11th–13th	13th–15th	16th–early 17th	17th–18th	18th–19th	19th–mid-20th
Species						
Cattle	16	4	7	6	5	1
Cattle-size	6	4	16	5	3	1
Equid	5					37
Sheep/goat	4	1	17	4	3	1
Sheep-size	1		10	4		
Pig	1		3	1	2	
Rabbit			1			
Chicken					1	
Chicken-size				1		
Goose						1
Total	33	9	54	21	14	41

context assemblages principally composed of bones which are less than 25% complete. The relatively complete bones taken from the later post-medieval horse family (equid) articulation (see below) formed a notable exception.

Medieval

Minor quantities of bones were retrieved from a variety of deposits, principally associated with earlier medieval activity, the largest collection (11 bones) deriving from the upper fill of ditch [554]. This feature provided four out of the five equid bones from this phase, these undoubtedly representing four teeth from the same adult individual. Cattle are the best represented species within this group followed by equid, sheep/goat and pig. The single pig bone was a tooth; sheep were represented by various limb bones and cattle by most parts of the skeleton. In addition, the cattle and sheep bones were taken from adult individuals (in excess of two years of age) while the pig tooth is from a second year aged animal.

Post-Medieval

Bones were recovered from each of the post-medieval phases with the majority coming from the earliest and latest parts of the sequence. There was some clustering of material, in particular the 30 fragments making up most of the earliest assemblage, these taken from pits [375], [391] and [397] (Fig 6); as well as the 12 fragments retrieved from a 19th-century posthole, [305] (Fig 7); and finally, the elements of the horse skeleton recovered from the fill of pit [738] (Fig 7). There are continuing trends from the earlier assemblage, including a good representation of cattle and sheep throughout, generally taken from adult individuals, as well as a wide distribution of skeletal parts. The cattle and sheep age distribution is indicative of secondary usage, with animals taken perhaps from dairy herds or wool flocks. However, there is also minor evidence for veal usage, provided by single bones from 18th- and 19th-century deposits. The few pig bones represented first and second year animals. This generally large domesticate meat diet was supplemented by some usage of poultry and wild game (rabbit).

There are indications of stock improvement amongst the domesticate collections, as shown by the number of cattle and pig bones from 19th-century deposits. Two of these large cattle bones provided shoulder heights (after von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974) of 1340.7mm and 1305.6mm. These clearly fall within the range of size data recovered from a variety of sites in Britain dating from at least the late 18th/early 19th century (after Davis 1987, 178). Stock improvements and subsequent changes in size followed better management regimes including the

introduction of various domestic 'types' (see Rixson 2000, 215, 220).

Finally, the latest group was principally composed of the partial remains of an adult equid, comprising most of the forelimbs. It can be supposed, considering the lack of any obvious truncation, that these represent the remains of a carcass which had been dumped and dismembered elsewhere. None of the bones had been butchered or showed any signs of dog gnawing. However, the likely scenario is either a shallow or no burial followed by dog scavenging with subsequent redistribution and deposition. The fusion of the bones, giving an age of at least 3.5 years and likely considerably older, bearing in mind the signs of 'wear and tear' on the remains – the extra bone laid down adjacent to the articular ends strongly suggests this was a heavily worked elderly animal. It stood about 1630mm at the shoulder (after von den Driesch & Boessneck 1974) and was clearly rather sturdy as shown by a slenderness index (taken from the metacarpus or forelimb/cannon bone) of 15.9. This could easily represent a shire horse, possibly a mare rather than a stallion, a recognisable breed dating back to the later 18th century (Ward 1998, 11–13).

Conclusions

Most of the bones derived from the post-medieval deposits were characteristic of a rather limited meat diet largely reliant on mature cattle and sheep. Supplementary usage of veal, pig, poultry and rabbit completed the meat intake. Notably, while samples were taken these did not provide any additional dietary information, most markedly shown by an absence of fish. These limitations may be indicative of lower status; however, it is well known that the diet of the wealthier households tended towards a greater usage of farm animals from the 16th/17th centuries onwards (Wilson 1973, 96). Of some interest is the obvious adoption of improved domesticate types/breeds, as indicated by the greater size of certain cattle and pigs, in this area dating from the 19th century. Similar sized cattle were found within contemporary levels at the High Street excavations in Uxbridge (Liddle 2004, 54). The medieval and post-medieval assemblages with respect to the indication of secondary usage would be well-matched with a farm context, in which animals which had passed their 'sell-by date' were consumed by its inhabitants.

The Charred Plant Remains

Lucy Allot

This report is a summary of the most significant aspects of the assemblage of charred plant remains recovered from the site, consisting of two samples from earlier and later medieval contexts (Table 3; Young 2013). The characteristics of the assemblages of charred plant remains recovered from both samples are comparable, although the charred material was significantly more abundant in sample <9>, taken from fill [507] of later medieval pit [508], than sample <1>, from fill [55] of earlier medieval pit [37]. All the macro plant remains were preserved through charring, and on the whole preservation was moderate enabling identification of the majority of remains. Many of the cereal caryopses are partially 'puffed' which is often a result of charring at high temperatures. The hulled barley caryopses in particular display characteristic splitting along their edges and dorsal ridges.

Charred wheat caryopses are dominant in both samples with smaller quantities of hulled barley, oats and non-cereal crop remains such as pea and common vetch also present (Table 3). Grains of free-threshing bread-type wheat are abundant with 1,421 specimens recorded within the 10ml subsample of flot <9>. The remaining flot appears equally rich in grains suggesting that more than 6,000 bread-type wheat grains may be present. Chaff was far less common with only six rachis fragments recorded in this sample and no identifiable chaff was evident in sample <1>. This is relatively typical of bread wheat assemblages as the grain is easily separated from the chaff in the early stages of processing.

Except for a few common peas and common vetch, the samples provided little evidence for non-cereal crops. Both legumes, as well as the barley, may have been preferred for animal fodder during the medieval period, while it is more likely that bread wheat was reserved for human consumption.

Table 3. Charred macro plant remains from earlier medieval pit [37] and later medieval pit [508] at 70 Station Road

Context			[55]	[507]
Feature no.			[37]	[508]
Sample no.			<1>	<9>
Flot volume (ml)			175	10
Flot volume analysed (ml)			50	10
Taxonomic identification	**English name**	**Habitat codes**	**Total**	**Total**
Crop Cereals				
Triticum aestivum sl	bread wheat caryopses	C*	184	1421
Triticum sp	wheat caryopses	C*	26	250
Hordeum sp	barley caryopses	C*	30	96
cf *Hordeum* sp	barley caryopses	C*		60
Triticum/Hordeum sp	wheat/barley caryopses	C*		120
cf *Avena* sp	oat caryopses	AC*		37
Avena sp	oat caryopses	AC*	9	59 & 1 sprouted
Cerealia indet	indeterminate cereal caryopses	C*	82	105
Cerealia indet	indeterminate cereal amalgams of caryopses & other indet stem frags, chaff, seeds & indet charcoal	C*		*
Chaff				
Triticum aestivum sl	rachis frags	C*		6
Triticum aestivum sl	lemma and palea frags (some with grain still in place)			5 & 1 with grain
Indet stem frags (cf Poaceae)	possible grass stem fragments	AC*	7	5 & 5 with nodes
Indet cerealia	chaff frags			2
Non-cereal crops				
Indet Fabaceae	small round Fabaceae	AC*G	5	
Pisum sativum L	common pea	C*	1	4
Vicia cf sativa				4
Vicia/Lathyrus /Pisum sp	vetch/tare/wild pea/common pea	CDG	2	11
Wild grasses, arable weeds and waste ground				
Poaceae	large caryopses	AHG		13
Poaceae	medium caryopses	AHG	25	3
Poaceae	small caryopses	AHG	2	

Table 3 (cont.)

Context	[55]	[507]
Feature no.	[37]	[508]
Sample no.	<1>	<9>
Flot volume (ml)	175	10
Flot volume analysed (ml)	50	10

Taxonomic identification	**English name**	**Habitat codes**	**Total**	**Total**
Fabaceae	indeterminate legumes small round			4
Trifolium/ Medicago sp	clover/medick	ACDGo		2
Polygonum/ Rumex sp	knotweed/dock		3	
cf *Rumex* sp	sorrel/dock	ADHSWow	8	6
Chenopodium sp	goosefoots	CDY	11	4
Agrostemma githago L	corncockle			1
Raphanus raphanistrum L	wild radish/charlock fruit	A	2	
Agrimonia eupatoria L	agrimony	GH	1	
Asteraceae	Compositae/daisy family			1
Centaurea sp	knapweed/thistle	ADo*		5
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L) Sch Bip	scentless mayweed	CD	2	
Leontodon saxatilis Lam	lesser hawkbit	Do		2
Anthemis cotula L	stinking chamomile	ADh	17	244
cf *Chrysanthemum segetum* L	corn marigold	ADY		12
cf *Artemisia* sp				2
Wild/weed plants common to wet ground				
Carex sp	sedges lenticular	EGMRw	1	
Indeterminate or unidentified plant parts				
Unidentified weed seed			6	
Indeterminate charred plant remains			1	

Key

Habitat characteristics: A – Weeds of cultivated grounds, Ar – Arable weeds, C – Cultivated plants, D – Ruderals, weeds of waste and disturbed places, E – Heath, G – Grassland, H – Hedgerows, M –Marsh/bog, O – Plants of open water, R – Plants of running waters, S – Scrub, W – Woods, Y – Waysides

Soils/ground conditions: a – acidic, b – base rich, c – calcareous, d – dry, h – heavy soils, n – nutrient rich, o – open ground, s – shaded, w – wet/damp soils

* – plants of economic value

The samples also contain small to moderate quantities of seeds from wild plants. Many of these are common arable weeds, although several are also typical of disturbed and waste ground or of open grassland vegetation. The majority are widespread with only a few that provide further information regarding the areas of land under cultivation. Stinking chamomile, the most commonly occurring weed seed in sample <9>, indicates that heavy clay-rich soils were cultivated. It is a common weed seed in assemblages dating to the medieval period and is typically associated with bread wheat dominated assemblages as this grain was suited to the heavier soils. The combination of some small legumes with the stinking chamomile in excavations at Heathrow Terminal 5 (Carruthers 2010) was interpreted as evidence for cultivation of nutrient-poor ground. Although only a few small legumes were recorded from the Station Road samples, the same pattern may be evident here (Table 3). These assemblages are fairly typical of medieval grain-rich assemblages with regards to the range of crop taxa – relative scarcity of chaff and the array of arable weeds represented.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings from the archaeological investigations at 70 Station Road are important. While the post-medieval development of West Drayton is reasonably well understood, its earlier history is poorly represented in the archaeological record. Therefore, the site has greatly enhanced our knowledge of its development during the prehistoric and medieval periods.

Prehistoric West Drayton

The Pleistocene terrace gravels of West London have provided rich and diverse evidence of later prehistoric occupation. Various phases of development at Heathrow Airport and the surrounding landscape, less than 5km south of the West Drayton site, for example, have permitted the investigation of extensive tracts of land that has yielded abundant evidence for landscape exploitation from the Early Neolithic to the Late Iron Age (*eg* Canham 1978; Grimes & Close-Brooks 1993; Elsden 1997; Lewis 2006; Framework Archaeology 2010). Lithic material recovered from 70 Station Road indicates that there was some level of transient activity here as early as the Mesolithic period, though significant occupation did not commence until the Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. The remains uncovered probably represent the creation of a series of ditched fields and tracks (Fig 2). By the Middle Bronze Age the character of the site had changed and a small oval-shaped enclosure had been constructed (Fig 2). There is no evidence for the function of this feature, but its similarity to contemporary ring ditches suggests that it may have served a ritual or funerary role. This development has few parallels in the near vicinity, therefore it is an important addition to the body of information concerning the development of the West Drayton area in the early part of the 2nd millennium BC. Numerous Middle Bronze Age cremation cemeteries have been recorded across the gravel terraces of the Middle Thames region, both as a result of historic mineral quarrying (*eg* Barrett 1973) and through more recent archaeological investigations (*eg* Boyer forthcoming). However, non-funerary sites of this date are less well known and fewer in number, though investigations are increasingly producing evidence of Middle Bronze Age occupation (*eg* Barclay *et al* 1995; Hull 1998; Jefferson 2003; Lewis & Batt 2006; Hoad *et al* 2010).

A possible disturbed cremation burial, [739], immediately adjacent to the Middle Bronze Age enclosure appears to have been of Late Bronze Age date. Middle and Late Bronze Age cremation burials have previously been identified locally (*eg* Maloney & Holroyd 2008, 19; Network Archaeology 2010).

During the Late Bronze Age a double-ditched enclosure was established on site (Fig 3); it marks the first permanent occupation of the area. This enclosure probably contained one or more farmsteads consisting of round houses, posthole structures, pits and animal pens. This type of feature is unparalleled in the West Drayton area. There is other evidence of Late Bronze Age activity in these surroundings, most notably that at Townmead School (Masefield 1998; 1999), but there is nothing known that is this early or on the scale of this monument. The newly discovered enclosure therefore

adds significantly to the body of information concerning activity in the local area in the late 2nd and early 1st millennia BC. Although not unique, it is also important within the wider region and may add significantly to the understanding of the exploitation and control of the landscape during the Late Bronze Age. A rectilinear enclosure, apparently of Late Bronze Age date was exposed during archaeological investigations at Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth, approximately 1.8km south-east of the Station Road site (Richardson 1986, 162; 1987, 275; Cotton *et al* 1986) and may provide a broadly contemporary example of a similar monument type, though there only appears to have been a single ditch. Rectangular enclosures of Bronze Age date identified at Imperial College Sports Ground to the north of Heathrow Airport were embedded within an extensive field system (Crockett 2001; Powell *et al* 2013).

Occupation of the site continued into the Iron Age, though the nature of later prehistoric activity on the site is rather less clear, as is the date of its abandonment. Small amounts of residual Roman and Early Saxon pottery confirm that the site continued in use during these periods. This material may represent the manuring of fields with midden material.

Medieval and Post-Medieval West Drayton

Around the time of the Norman Conquest the site was reoccupied. The most prominent features were two linear ditches, possibly defining individual house plots or farmsteads. Due to modern truncation and disturbance the number of contemporary buildings was almost certainly under-represented on site, as only one timber structure, possibly a house, could be identified (Fig 4). The Domesday Survey recorded an agrarian estate at West Drayton populated by 17 households (see above 'Background'). However, 'it is important to note the Domesday Book does not actually list *villages* which existed at the time. It describes the *land* held by various lords and sub-tenants. … These landholdings may be akin to later medieval manors, though much scholastic ink has been spilt over the question as to whether they were indeed true manors' (Taylor 1983, 125). During the Early and Middle Saxon periods the pattern of rural settlement was one of dispersed farmsteads, but during the Late Saxon period (*c.*AD 850–1066) for economic and social reasons a shift towards nucleated rural settlement began, establishing the precursors of many modern villages (Howell *et al* 2011, 98).

The date range of the medieval ceramics indicates that there was continuous occupation on site from *c.*1050 until *c.*1250, when the intensity of activity declined. The impression is that during the mid-13th century, perhaps instead of being occupied by several farmsteads, the site became a peripheral part of a single larger operation (Fig 5). Manorial surveys suggest that by the 16th century West Drayton village consisted of the parish church, the manor house plus a cluster of farmsteads and cottages situated close to the green to the south-west of the site (Rose 1962, 189). Early post-medieval activity appears to represent part of a farmstead or more likely its external yard situated on the edge of the village. However, it must be remembered that archaeological fieldwork elsewhere has established there are examples of English villages where the focus of settlement shifted several times between the 9th and 16th centuries (Taylor 1983, fig 44). It is possible, therefore, that the change in the level of activity on site during the mid-13th century reflects one of these shifts in settlement.

The site was occupied into the post-medieval period and by the 17th or 18th century more buildings were constructed (Structures 4 and 5, Fig 6). During the 18th and 19th centuries additional buildings including a raised granary were erected (Structure 7, Fig 7). By 1828 the property formed part of a farmyard which was latterly attached to Rooks Farm (see above 'Background'). As part of the 20th-century expansion of West Drayton, the site was engulfed by suburban growth ending its agrarian usage.

Conclusions

The site has revealed a complex multi-period sequence of development. The information gleaned from 70 Station Road has increased our understanding of the changing pattern of settlement in an area that was previously poorly represented in terms of its

prehistoric and medieval archaeology. The site was clearly situated at a location of some importance given its continued reoccupation over several millennia.

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NOTES

1 The National Archives (TNA) RG9/766/27: 24.

2 London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) DRO/001/A/01/008.

3 TNA RG 10/1307/31: 25.

4 TNA RG 11/1330/30: 25.

5 TNA RG 13/1176/42: 40.

6 No identifiable bone was recovered from this deposit.

7 MOLA Resource Library, *Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Codes* [last updated January 2015], www.mola.org.uk/resource-library (accessed 4 February 2017).

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